

MISTAKES
HAM SELF-DESTRUCT
ON SALLY WAYS
RAISE SPEED

Halifax
to tell
savers of
merger
progress

the world
turning to
Government
in the UK
will Guide
information
on its

Slaughter tourism

Where is the sport in blasting to death a tame elephant? Pages 12, 18

Is hypnotism safe?

MPs demand law review, p8
How it works, p16

Snobbery and the lottery

Alan Yentob hits back at his viewer critics.
Alexandra Frean interview, p32

20P

THE TIMES



No. 65,137

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14 1994

Aircraft attack rebel Chechens, but Russians refuse to fire on civilians

Tanks halted by unarmed protesters

THE main Russian army column advancing into Chechnya was stopped in its tracks yesterday by the appeals of a crowd of unarmed civilians and a Russian democratic politician.

Russian troops advancing towards Grozny, the capital of the rebel republic, in tanks and troop carriers had their way blocked by hundreds of Chechens waving placards. Their officers appeared to be confused and frightened by contradictory signals from Moscow and the prospect of large-scale civilian casualties.

At noon yesterday the demonstrators at Davydenko, 40 miles from Grozny, blocked the main road leading into Chechnya from Ingushetia to the west. They carried placards reading: "Russian soldiers, do not shed the blood of the people."

Behind them on the road to Grozny, Russian planes and helicopters were attacking Chechen military positions, killing at least eight people and slightly wounding Sean Ramsay, an American photographer for Reuters.



Anatol Lieven sees advancing Russian tanks being halted by Chechen civilians armed only with placards at Davydenko on the road to Grozny

there was a flicker of hope that the Russians and Chechens might be able to resolve their differences without spilling more blood.

As armed Russian helicopters clattered overhead, a shifting mass of unarmed Chechens only a few hundred yards from the Russian tank column prevented what could have been a massacre.

An earlier Russian air attack at the Chechen post of Shaam-Yurt had left the roadside littered with wrecked cars and scraps of bloodstained clothing. Towards 1pm, the crowd at Davydenko saw the first Russian tanks approaching.

The paratroopers of Major General Ivan Babichev's command had spent 2½ days forcing their way across neighbouring Ingushetia through the resistance of local people.

Four hundred yards from the Chechen crowd, the Russian advance guard halted. A delegation of local Chechen officials went forward, and General Babichev told them that his orders were to move on Grozny. If they did not get their people off the road he would open fire, he said, even at the cost of a massacre.

But for three hours negotiations progressed, though against a background of helicopter gunships roaring overhead and artillery fire from the other northern Russian column distantly echoing from the hills.

By 4pm, General Babichev had agreed that he would advance no further that day and would not open fire as long as the Chechens did not attack his force, reversing his earlier stand.

"I cannot give you my word that there will be no advance, because I command only one part of the force," he said. "But I promise you that I have given orders to my men not to move. We do not want to drive over civilians."

The key player in changing General Babichev's mind during the talks was not the Chechen delegation, but Viktor Kurochkin, a deputy of the Federation Council, the upper house of the Russian parliament, from the liberal Democratic Russia party. He told General Babichev emphatically that "a week ago, the Federation Council voted that an order for a military advance into Chechnya would be illegal. Be warned: it is traitors who have given you these orders but you will be made to suffer for them."

Outwardly unmoved, but with his will evidently shaken, the general then said that on his own authority he would order the column to halt and send Mr Kurochkin back along the endless line of tanks and trucks to talk to his superiors.

With that the second line of Russian advance into Chechnya again ground to a halt.

Leaders' fate, page 14



An Aids patient kisses the Duchess of York at a hospital in Lisbon yesterday

Duchess tested twice for HIV

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

THE Duchess of York has disclosed that she has had two tests for the Aids virus, one before she was married to Prince Andrew and one since the couple separated.

The duchess, who is on a visit to Portugal to support a local Aids charity, told the Lisbon daily newspaper *Diário de Notícias* that she had the HIV tests as a precaution. She arrived in Lisbon on Monday for a three-day visit to support the Aids charity Abraco, fulfilling a promise to a Portuguese

friend in London whose brother has Aids. She met President Soares and was guest of honour at a fundraising dinner.

After calling for greater openness about the disease, she was asked if she had ever been tested for HIV. The duchess, 35, was reported as saying: "Yes, of course. I underwent three tests, before getting married and before becoming pregnant."

A spokeswoman for the duchess said later that the reporter had misheard the reply. "She has had two tests, one before getting married and one recently, which was re-

quired for a life insurance policy." The decision to take the first test was a personal one and not required by Buckingham Palace, before she married Prince Andrew, the spokeswoman said.

Asked about the impact of Aids on romantic relationships and the need to use condoms, she said: "We have to adapt to circumstances in life. I don't think this makes a difference. I am very practical. What has to be, has to be."

The duchess said she wanted nurses to be trained to treat Aids victims more humanely and she wanted hospitals to give the families of Aids patients more access to visit.

Hurd admits three more Pergau-style law breaches

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT funding for the Pergau Dam project in Malaysia will continue despite a High Court ruling that Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, acted unlawfully in authorising £234 million in aid, the Commons heard yesterday.

Mr Hurd said in a statement that he would not appeal against the ruling, but that funding would continue from money outside the overseas aid programme.

He also disclosed changes to the way three other overseas aid projects are being financed "to avoid any possible doubt".

For the Opposition, Joan Lester, the shadow Overseas Development Minister, said that the Pergau loan was untenable, and called on Mr Hurd to resign.

The Foreign Secretary told MPs that the three other cases may have breached laws limiting the powers of ministers to give grant aid. In each case, ministers put political and commercial considerations ahead of economic arguments.

The three other cases were: □ A £22million donation to help build a Metro project in Ankara, Turkey. It was agreed in 1990, although the Government now accepts that "there was no economic case for the project".

□ A £9.3million soft loan was made to the Indonesian government to help build a television studio at Bandung in 1986. Officials now accept that it may have breached the law because "political and commercial considerations were paramount in the decision to allocate aid".

□ A £2.9million grant was approved to help set up a flight information region project in Botswana in 1988. Officials now say that there was no economic case for the project.

The cases came before Mr Hurd and John Major decided

in 1991 to honour a promise made by Baroness Thatcher to pay £234 million towards the Pergau hydro-electric dam project.

Mr Hurd told the Commons that the court decision had forced a review of all projects which have received help from funds set up to provide aid to poorer countries in the hope of attracting trade orders.

It was now thought that the three earlier donations may fall outside laws which insist that aid must help the development of a country's economy.

He announced that remaining payments for the four projects would not be made from the £100 million aid and trade fund, and would be paid from reserve credit funds. This means an extra £65 million

Matthew Parris..... 2
Peter Riddell..... 11

will be made available for overseas aid projects over the next two years, although no decisions have been made on where the money should go.

His admission that other projects might also have breached the law provoked criticism from Labour MPs, who claimed the Government had repeatedly refused to accept the advice of officials.

Mr Hurd was pressed to channel aid money into new projects. He said: "It is not self-evident that the Government should in consequence ask the taxpayer for additional money to allow the Overseas Development Administration to expand its aid activities."

Mr Hurd has been criticised by two Commons reports for overruling advice from Sir Tim Lankesier, former permanent secretary at the Overseas Development Administration, that the Pergau funding was an abuse of the aid programme.

Caledonian sold in £16.6m deal

Caledonian Airways, one of three remaining independent charter airlines, has been taken over by the tour operator Inspirations in a £16.6 million deal. Though wholly owned by British Airways, Caledonian, which provided two million seats a year, was run totally independently. Page 23

Births, marriages, deaths	20
Bridge	9
Cheese	9,44
Crossword	22
Law Report	37
Leading articles	19
Letters	19
Obituaries	21
Weather	22
TV & Radio	42-43

Buying The Times overseas
USA \$10.00 per copy
Canada \$12.00 per copy
Australia \$15.00 per copy
New Zealand \$12.00 per copy
South Africa \$12.00 per copy
India \$12.00 per copy
Japan \$12.00 per copy
Singapore \$12.00 per copy
Malaysia \$12.00 per copy
Thailand \$12.00 per copy
Hong Kong \$12.00 per copy
Taiwan \$12.00 per copy
South Korea \$12.00 per copy
Philippines \$12.00 per copy
Indonesia \$12.00 per copy
Singapore \$12.00 per copy
Malaysia \$12.00 per copy
Thailand \$12.00 per copy
Hong Kong \$12.00 per copy
Taiwan \$12.00 per copy
South Korea \$12.00 per copy
Philippines \$12.00 per copy
Indonesia \$12.00 per copy



Boothroyd bars Blair intruders

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TWO researchers who found their way into Tony Blair's Commons office were barred from Parliament yesterday for six weeks. Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, ordered the punishment, although she put the incident down to alcohol rather than malice.

Her explanation failed to satisfy some Labour MPs, who continued to say there was something more sinister in the discovery of the three intruders in the Labour leader's office on Friday evening. One was Andrew Hull, research assistant to David Atkinson, Tory MP for Bournemouth East. The others were a young American researcher, Nigel Snow, and Mr Hull's girlfriend, Amanda Hill.

Miss Boothroyd told the Commons that she had ordered the withdrawal of the two researchers' security passes until February 1. She was satisfied that no malice had been involved and that the incident had been caused by "excess of seasonal spirit".

Police officers who investigated were satisfied that nothing had been taken or disturbed. "Nevertheless," she

said, "it must be understood that it is a privilege to work in and to have access to the Palace of Westminster."

Mr Atkinson said the Speaker's assessment that there had been no malice "was my conclusion when I was given the explanation". Pressed to say whether Mr Hull would be able to resume his research post after February 1, Mr Atkinson replied: "That is a matter I have to consider."

Max Madden (Lab, Bradford W) called for tighter procedures for the issuing of parliamentary passes. "Virtually any Tom, Dick or Harry can be issued with a pass to this place," he said. Dale Campbell-Savours (Lab, Wokingham) asked: "Why was it they were not searched when they left the office?"

Referring to Mr Hull's claim that his group became lost in the winding corridors of Westminster after leaving a Lords bar and found themselves in Mr Blair's Commons office by mistake, Mr Camp-

Continued on page 2, col 5

£17m lottery winner protected

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
AND KATE ALDERSON

THE organisers of the National Lottery last night obtained a high court injunction to stop newspapers naming the family who won £17.8 million at the weekend.

As rumours spread that the winner was Asian and worked in a chemical factory in Blackburn, Camelot sought the injunction against Mirror Group Newspapers and News International.

Some tabloid newspapers are believed to have obtained details of the family after the father allegedly telephoned work on Monday to say that he was sick before taking his wife and three children to India.

Although *The Sun* and *The Daily Mirror* have withdrawn rewards of £10,000 and £5,000 respectively for information leading to the identity, they took scores of calls yesterday from people who thought they knew who he was.

Alan Coren, page 18
Media/Marketing, page 32

Gay Romanian granted asylum

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A FORMER Romanian soldier who is homosexual has been granted asylum in the United Kingdom in a landmark ruling that could trigger a flood of applications from gay men and women.

The unnamed man has qualified for asylum after convincing an immigration tribunal that he faced persecution and imprisonment if he was deported to Bucharest.

It is the first time that an immigration appeal tribunal has ruled that a gay man or woman could be classified as part of a distinct social group qualifying for asylum on the grounds of a "well founded fear of persecution".

The tribunal made its judgment after being told that the former soldier faced imprisonment under Romania's harsh anti-gay laws and that his male partner had already been interrogated and tortured. In the past few months the Bucharest parliament has debated whether the law should be amended to take a more enlightened view, but the move was defeated.

The tribunal overrules a Home Office adjudicator, who

said English law did not confer membership of a "social group" on gay men and women as required under international asylum conventions. The tribunal said that while gay relationships had become more acceptable, homosexuals were still subject to different treatment. There was no doubt that homosexuals were treated as a distinct group in Romania.

A Home Office spokesman said last night that each asylum case was dealt with on its merits, and the soldier had been able to prove to the tribunal that he had a well founded fear of persecution.

He said that the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, had not made a decision on whether to appeal against the ruling, as officials still had to consider the judgment.

Mark Watson, of Stonewall, the homosexual rights pressure group, said: "This is an important decision which accepts the 'immutability' of homosexuality, and brings the UK in line with a growing number of countries which recognise that people are persecuted for being gay."

DIVE INTO N&P FOR AN AFFORDABLE PERSONAL LOAN.



There's no need to fish for a Personal Loan, just take a look at N&P: 15.5% APR for loans of over £5,000 - plus a further 1% reduction if you're already a customer*. Take advantage of an N&P Personal Loan now - call into your local branch for details and an application form, or phone us free, 8am to 8pm, seven days a week on

0800 80 80 80
Quoting code 5296. No-one's better on your behalf

Written quotations available on request. Loans subject to status. Available to applicants between 18 and 65. Maximum term 510 weeks. Loans cannot be used for debt consolidation, business purposes or speculative purposes (ie betting and stock shares). Typical example: Loan of £5,000 payable over 36 months including Credit Care Insurance. Monthly repayment of £196.51, estimated total amount repayable £7,074.36. Monthly interest rate 12.1% APR. 15.5% *1% discount available to customers who have held an N&P savings or investment account for a minimum of 6 months or existing N&P mortgage customers. Calculation assumes that the APR remains unchanged throughout the period of the loan. Monthly rate of interest may vary but will never exceed the current rate. N&P Personal Loans Ltd. Registered in England No. 2382829. Registered Office: Provincial House, Bedford RD12LN. (N&P Personal Loans Ltd is a subsidiary of National and Provincial Building Society).

Very nice, mild-mannered minister confidently to the rescue

Imagine you are Foreign Secretary. The High Court has ruled that British aid to a foreign project was unlawful. Should you appeal? You ask your Permanent Secretary to study the case urgently and advise. He asks his staff. Their advice arrives.

"Permanent Secretary: First the bad news, then worse. There are no grounds for an appeal. We'd lose. Second: the project complained of is not alone. We have identified three more that also fall foul of the law.

They may well come to light. "Can you fix this?" No, he can't but he knows a man who can. A very nice man. A very, very nice man. Another memo goes up...

"Foreign Secretary: pre-festive bother, I fear. Please see the attached — from our legal pests. Statement to the House? Good luck! See you after Christmas, I'm off to the Azores — lovely in December. Humphrey."

Could a junior minister handle it? No. An Eton and Oxbridge Christopher Reeve is needed: a blend of Jeeves

and Wooster with phenomenal powers of sliding out of difficulty. Only SuperDoug could save the day.

MPs filed into the Chamber. The mood was expectant. How would the Government wriggle out? The doors behind the Chair swung open. Something tall with wavy silver hair slipped past Miss Boothroyd.

Was it a bird? Was it a plane? No, it was SuperDoug, striding confidently to the Dispatch Box. His mission? To explain. Readers, have you ever



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

seen those victims of fraud interviewed on television? They are at a loss to explain why they missed the small print: why they ever believed the hand assurances: indeed they are at a loss to remember what the assurances were. They realise it looks like gobbledygook now. But it sounded so convincing... That is how it feels after

you have witnessed a Hurd explanation. SuperDoug got away with it. Again.

Looking back, one realises that logic was stood on its head. Reviewing one's notes, I read — with incredulity — this: "I have not in any way crossed swords with the Court." What did he mean? That he did not in fact challenge the rule of law?

Sentenced, handcuffed and led to the cells, any gangster could say as much.

And what were these other projects, the mini-Pergaus we never spotted? A project to build "a Metro in Ankara". What? Taxing the British poor to build a Turkish Tube? A "Botswana flight information" project? But Botswana is a vast, remote semi-desert. Have the bushmen noticed the flight-congestion above? "A television studio in Indonesia." Come again? "Helping link a wide-spread community of poor people,"

explained SuperDoug. Crilkey, there are parts of Britain where the viewers are still waiting for proper television reception.

And nobody except Labour's George Foulkes even bothered to ask about the projects.

Mr Hurd's illogic was staggering. Why was the aid budget not to be reimbursed for years gone by? Budgets were framed to meet commitments, he said, not the other way round. Then why was the aid budget being reimbursed for future years? New

commitments, as yet unidentified, he poured, could now be afforded.

SuperDoug was asked why he had continued funding Pergau out of the aid budget after officials said it was wrong. So as not to break Mrs Thatcher's promises, he said: dearie me, one couldn't break promises. That might be funded out of a different budget — as it will now be — cannot have occurred to him.

Nobody asked him why SuperDoug is a very nice man, after all: a very, very nice man.

Government urged to halt railway privatisation

By TIM JONES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT, AND PHILIP WEBSTER

JOHN MAJOR faced demands last night to halt rail privatisation after a consultants' report gave a warning that lack of funds could lead to the closure of nearly half the rail network.

An investigation into rail finances was launched by the Commons transport committee after two of its advisers reported that government cut-backs might be achieved "by closing the least busy 4,000 miles of the 9,000-mile passenger network". They admitted, however, that such action was unlikely to be politically acceptable. Fears that wide areas of rural Britain could be left isolated prompted an angry Commons clash between the Prime Minister and Tony Blair.

The Labour leader said that if the Government pressed on, "it will only show how completely out of touch your Government are with the British people". But Mr Major insisted the scheme would bring benefits for passengers and added: "Since the start of the rail privatisation process, there has been no shortage of scare stories."

Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat transport spokesman, said Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, "risks making Beeching look like an amateur".

Michael Meacher, the shadow Transport Secretary, said:

"BR will suffer savage cuts in Government subsidies over the next few years."

The authors of the report, Professor Richard Bradshaw and Richard Hope said the factors behind the financial crisis included a revenue loss of £154 million because of the signalworkers' strike, restructuring and upheaval costs of £100 million, a worse than

will also investigate "the costs of restructuring the railway and the professional advice employed to assist in this process".

According to some industry sources, the cost of privatisation is so great the Government will either have to greatly increase subsidies or reduce the network to little more than the current main service.

Roger Salmon, the franchising director, is preparing today to issue guidelines for the first group of franchisees to be let. The fact that no company or group, other than management buy-out teams, have so far given a definite indication of wanting to run a railway is could be a huge source of embarrassment for the Government.

The reduction of the length of the rail passenger track from 9,000 miles to 5,000 miles is a worst case scenario painted by the advisers. This would virtually wipe out services north of Glasgow and Edinburgh, almost all lines east of the East Coast main line from Berwick upon Tweed to Peterborough.

All services to the south and west of Exeter would be at risk as would every service in Wales apart from the main lines to Swansea in the south and Holyhead in the north. Dozens of small, little-used lines in central England would also be at risk.



Mawhinney compared with Beeching

expected reduction in passenger revenue support amounting next year to a deficit of £100 million, and losses caused by a decline in coal traffic and the late opening of the Channel Tunnel.

The transport committee is to look at "the scale of the cash shortfall facing BR and details of the likely effect on passengers and freight services". It



London tramcar in 1903. Apart from Blackpool, trams disappeared 30 years ago

Tram schemes take travellers on trip down Memory Lane

By OUR TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 40 years after they were discarded in London as the relic of a slow-age, trams are making a comeback. Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, gave the go ahead yesterday for two schemes, funded by the private and public sector, which will reintroduce the vehicles to

Croydon and to the Midland Metro between Birmingham and Wolverhampton. If they are built they will increase to four the number of tram schemes funded by the Transport Department. Manchester's Metro Link opened in 1992 and the Sheffield Supertram started operating earlier this year. The £150 million Croydon scheme will link Croydon with Wimbledon, Beckenham, Elmers



An artist's impression of the new tramway

End and New Addington, running along or beside roads and over existing rail lines.

The £144 million Midland project, designed to help regenerate the Black Country, will run through West Bromwich and Wednesbury.

But in spite of their enthusiasm for the scheme, council leaders in the Midlands claim that because of the requirement for a significant proportion of the cost being funded locally, the tramline may never be built.

Dr Mawhinney said: "It is important to get the correct balance between road building and public transport. Light rail schemes bring with them the benefits of cleaner, quieter public transport in a pleasant environment."

Apart from the tourist trams in Blackpool, the vehicles disappeared completely from Britain 30 years ago. Critics doubt whether they are sufficiently attractive to have much effect on removing cars from the road, citing the case of Manchester where their introduction has failed to have any noticeable effect on reducing congestion.

Ulster has the will to succeed, Major tells big investors

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR opened an investment conference in Belfast last night that aims to build on the IRA and loyalist ceasefires to attract investors to Northern Ireland.

The Prime Minister told 270 delegates from America, Europe and the Far East at a dinner at the Europa Hotel that peace would lead to an economic transformation. He said that 25 years of terrorism had held back the province, but after the ceasefires it was now a "society bursting with the desire to succeed".

Mr Major told delegates at the International Investment Forum, who included Ron Brown, the US Commerce Secretary, and Carlo Trojan, who heads the European Commission's Northern Ireland Task Force: "We intend to consolidate peace by showing what each and every person in Northern Ireland stands to gain from it. And already the evidence is all around us — in this fine hotel, which has shed the scars of past attacks and in other hotels filling their rooms for the first time in years."

Mr Major tackled American fears that companies in Northern Ireland discriminate on the grounds of religion when he said that the province had made considerable progress in

the last 25 years. He said: "Northern Ireland has some of the most stringent measures in the world for fair employment and community relations to be found anywhere in the world."

He also outlined the Government's political strategy in Northern Ireland in the past year which had opposed terrorism "with all democratic means". He added: "I hope that equally strong pressure will come from outside Northern Ireland. People overseas who take an interest in its affairs — wherever their sympathies may lie — should continue to speak up for peace."

Mr Major will address the conference again this morning when he is expected to announce a number of multi-million-pound investments in Northern Ireland that will create hundreds of jobs. He will then tour companies that have recently invested there.

Before the dinner last night Britain and America signed an agreement to link businesses in Northern Ireland with US research and development projects and to give firms in the province greater access to US technology networks.

Clinton's offer, page 23

House ban

Continued from page 1
bett-Saviours said many Labour MPs did not find it credible that people "should walk the length of the Palace of Westminster and just happen to enter Mr Blair's office".

He said: "It is not a credible story. We believe that their motive was deliberate: that it was to enter, knowing they had no right to enter that office, and to do whatever they set out to do."

David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N) said a mistake seemed incredible. "There is feeling on the Labour benches that this is... a deliberate attempt to find out information unofficially from the Opposition leader's office."

John Prescott had said earlier that the incident could be interpreted as the Tories "sending in the yobboes".

Politics, page 11



AEROSPACE

Altitude. Speed. Time... All shown by a pointer or needle on an indicator, even on the latest aircraft. Because a pointer sweeping over a circular gauge is what a pilot sees and understands most readily — particularly when he has to keep track of countless other pieces of information.

By contrast, digital readouts provide finer and fuller detail — time to half of a second, for instance, or alphanumeric data. They also simplify the setting of programmable functions.

BREITLING'S AEROSPACE implements these display principles to the full. Little wonder it is the unquestioned choice of the world's topflight aerobatics teams.



Multifunction quartz electronic instrument watch with hybrid displays. Hours and minutes shown by conventional hands. Alphanumeric menu and functions displayed in two LCD windows. Chronograph calibrated to 1/10th of a second. With alarm, countdown timer, second time zone, day of the week and date functions. Chronograph operated and functions programmed directly by the crown. Titanium case water-resistant to 100 m (300 ft), with glareproofed sapphire crystal. Bezel with ridged tabs clad with titanium. Oileride, "AEROSPACE" or "PROFESSIONAL" bracelet or leather strap.

AVAILABLE FROM SELECTED JEWELLERS THROUGHOUT GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND. FOR YOUR NEAREST STOCKIST TELEPHONE 071 637 5167.

INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Major faces fight over Spanish trawlers

Proposals to increase the access of Spanish trawlers to British and Irish fishing grounds are threatening John Major with another defeat in the House of Commons. The chance to vote against the Government will come after a debate tonight on European fisheries policy, in which the Opposition will be hoping for support from Euro-sceptic Tories and others representing fishing constituencies.

At issue are plans to permit Spanish trawlers entry to an area of 74,000 square miles, known as the Irish Box, and to allow more of them to fish at a time in wider waters to the west of the British Isles. British fishermen fear drastic cutbacks in their catches of such species as hake, monkfish and prawn, which are already heavily exploited, to accommodate the Spaniards. The proposals are to be discussed by EU fisheries ministers in Brussels next week.

Army tests for drugs

The Army is to introduce random drug testing today to combat rising drug abuse. A civilian contractor has been hired to carry out the work after several months of trials. Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, said in a Commons written reply that the tests would be as strict as those for international athletes.

UK acts on livestock

Britain is to act unilaterally to protect farm animals in transit after European Union agriculture ministers failed yesterday in Brussels to agree on new legislation. Road hauliers will be guilty of a criminal offence if they fail to keep to journey plans specifying the places where animals will be fed, rested and watered.

Hindley fights threats

Myra Hindley is going to law to stop relatives of the victims of the 1975 Manchester bombing threatening to kill her, her solicitor said. Hindley is angry that death threats were made. Channel 4's Witness documentary, broadcast last week, Anthony McCooey said: "It is not right for a platform to be given and I intend to pursue this matter in the courts."

Submarine found

A Second World War submarine, which was lost with all 37 men on board during a training exercise in 1943, has been discovered off the Isle of Arran. The position of HMS Vandal was pinpointed by Royal Navy minehunters. Navy chiefs plan to lay a wreath on the waters above the wreck, which is being treated as an official war grave, next year.

V&A director resigns

Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, announced her resignation yesterday. She leaves the London museum, which she has run since 1988, next September, and will become vice-chancellor of the University of East Anglia in Norwich on October 1. "I shall leave with great sadness," Mrs Esteve-Coll, 56, said.

Just two of the 26,000 reasons why you should support our work with homeless people this week

Every week The Salvation Army provides almost 26,000 beds to homeless men and women, and gives them the comforts you and I take for granted — a hot bath, clean clothes, a hearty meal...

Will you join us and help to bring someone in from the cold this winter?

Just £15 could give a homeless person warm clothing, food and shelter.

Please make your gift by calling

0800 108 101

now or use the coupon below.

Please return the coupon below with your gift to: The Salvation Army, FREEPOST KE3466, Room 21, 101 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON EC4E 6EJ

The Salvation Army
Bleak Mid-winter Appeal

Here is my gift of: £15 £30 £45 £60 Other £

Please make cheques/Postal Orders payable to: The Salvation Army.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Please debit my Access/Visa Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

The Salvation Army (A registered charity) TR1

هكذا من الأصل

Tranquilliser overdose led to death of anorexic twin

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A TWIN who suffered from the sitters' disease anorexia nervosa, took a fatal overdose of tranquillisers to end her suffering and to free her twin from the same illness, an inquest heard yesterday.

Michaela Kendall, 26, died in April after swallowing pills at her grandmother's home in Sheldon Heath, Birmingham. She died lying next to her sister Samantha who is recovering from the disease.

Miss Kendall had discharged herself from the Queen Elizabeth Psychiatric hospital only six months earlier. Their mother, Suzy Kendall, told the inquest at Birmingham coroner's court how the twins had been inseparable and had undertaken a slimming pact more than ten years ago after being taunted at school about their weight.

They had initially been flattered by comments on their new appearance and the dieting had quickly become an obsession. "Michaela and Samantha were identical in nearly every way," Mrs Kendall said.

"The anorexia started when they were teenagers. They just couldn't stand the jeering and jibing at school, they were called cruel names like 'tubby twins' and people would shout 'the Kendall twins are fat'."

"They decided to go on a diet over the summer holidays when they were 14 and within six weeks they had lost two-

and-a-half stone, they were both so determined.

"The pair of them were proud of their new figures and everyone was in awe of them. Their friends and boyfriends just flocked around them."

"But because of the flattery they thought 'we'll carry on' and the anorexia started. They were never to eat normally again for about 12 years."

Mrs Kendall said Michaela had always opposed treatment. "Michaela was always in and out of hospital, the doctors said her brain was disturbed, but Michaela didn't want treatment, she just wanted to be with her sister."

"It was such a shock when she died because I thought they would never have left each other," she said.

"I am sure now she wanted to come home to die. I am convinced by her wish. She often told me she wanted to die."

Diane Morgan, the sisters' care worker, said: "She told me if she died it would free Samantha to live."

Miss Kendall had been admitted to hospital six times, but had discharged herself each time. She was detained under the Mental Health Act at the Queen Elizabeth Psychiatric Hospital, but won an appeal to be discharged two weeks before her death.

A post mortem examination showed her body contained a fatal level of the sedative nitrazepam, more than ten times the strongest recommended dose. Christopher Edwards, a consultant pathologist, said her body was "grossly emaciated" and she weighed just five stone.

Recording a verdict of death by natural causes, Richard Whittington, the coroner, said Michaela had died as a result of a viral infection to the lining of her heart as well as the consequences of anorexia nervosa and the overdose.

He added: "To hear that Samantha is making some progress with her illness gives me some hope."



Michaela Kendall: "I wanted to die."



The wedding carriage on the pavement in Derby after the horses had become separated from it and knocked down Sandra Grubnic

Wedding carriage horses killed girl

By A STAFF REPORTER

A GIRL aged 16 was trampled beneath the hooves of two runaway horses when they broke free from a wedding carriage in a busy city street, a court was told yesterday. Sandra Grubnic died two days after being crushed by the white stallions when they mounted a pavement.

Denis Molloy, 53, of Brailsford, Derbyshire, owner of the stables that provided the carriage and horses, denies a charge of manslaughter.

John Milmo, QC, for the prosecution, told Leicester Crown Court that the case was unusual, partly because Mr Molloy was not even present when the accident happened in June 1992. The carriage was travelling along Burton Road, Derby, on a Saturday afternoon when the horses became separated from it, Mr Milmo said. The horses mounted a pavement



Miss Grubnic died two days after being hit by horses from Brailsford Stables



and Miss Grubnic was hit and fatally injured. She died two days later.

Mr Milmo added: "The prosecution say that this accident happened because there was no pin fitted to a detachable pole which joins the horses to the carriage."

He said the pole became detached from its cup as the carriage was going downhill, allowing the front of the carriage to hit the back of the two horses. "It's not something the horses are going to appreciate. It's something that could frighten them. Inevitably they are going to go faster to stop the carriage

banging against them. Despite the endeavours of the girl driving, the two horses and the pole became detached from the carriage and the horses mounted the pavement and caused the death of Sandra Grubnic," he said. Mr Molloy's niece, Lindsey Appleby, who had worked

part-time for him for four years, was driving the carriage. She was accompanied by a groom, Rachel Hollyoakes. Mr Milmo said Mr Molloy caused the unlawful death of Miss Grubnic by failing properly to instruct the driver of the carriage.

Mr Molloy allegedly told officers the pin had probably fallen out, but Mr Milmo said Miss Appleby was never given a pin to attach the horses and cart together. He said Mr Molloy had been proprietor of Brailsford Stables Horse-Drawn Carriages for 15 years.

Miss Appleby had been trained by him and although she had no qualifications, had gained on-the-job experience, Mr Milmo said.

Molloy arrived at court in a Range Rover towing the wedding carriage, which was reversed into the court's precincts and is expected to be shown to the jury later in the case. The trial continues.

Operatic phrase left locals out of harmony

By ALAN HAMILTON

A COURT yesterday considered which opera included the phrase "boom boom boom".

On the second day of a hearing at Thame magistrates court to consider a prosecution by South Oxfordshire District Council against Garsington Opera for excessive noise, a resident of the Oxfordshire village complained that he had felt "trapped, annoyed and inhibited" by the sound of opera floating from Garsington Manor, home of Leonard Ingrams, who has staged a brief open-air opera season each year since 1990.

Peter Rodger, a chartered surveyor who lives in the village on the edge of Oxford, appearing for the prosecution, said that during one performance this year, he could hear from his home "someone shouting 'boom, boom, boom' or words to that effect."

Mr Rodger could not identify the work. James Rankin, the defence barrister, told him: "We have been scratching our heads and cannot think what opera that could be. It sounds more like the Swedish entry in the Eurovision Song Contest."

A straw poll outside the court voted it a phrase from Haydn's *L'incontro Improvviso*, staged at Garsington last summer.

Mr Ingrams has pleaded not guilty to breaching the terms of his council entertainment licence by permitting excess noise from the opera. Complaints were led by Monica Waud, a social worker and another local resident.

David Surattar, financial director of the opera, told magistrates that Mrs Waud was bent on getting the opera stopped, and had a long list of complaints besides those relating to noise.

Another defence witness, Louise Verrey, said that from her weekend home 100 yards from the arena she could barely hear the opera, and then only very softly and for short periods if the wind was in the right direction.

Called to the witness box, Mr Ingrams told the court that until recently there had been no complaints about noise. The hearing continues.

Doctor 'took drugs with patient'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A HARLEY STREET doctor took cocaine and morphine at his clinic with the daughter of Lord Hartwell, the former proprietor of *The Daily Telegraph*, a court was told yesterday.

The widow of 61-year-old Victor Ratner said that her late husband also drank alcohol in his surgery with Eleanor Berry, who was one of his patients. Gilda Ratner, 25, told Knightsbridge Crown Court that the woman she is alleged to have swindled out of nearly £17,000 seemed to have a hold over the society doctor. "Anything she wanted he would give to her. There was some sort of blackmail between them I didn't understand," she claimed.

Last week Miss Berry, who spent four days in the witness

box, told the court that she had never taken drugs and that her relationship with Dr Ratner had been platonic.

Mrs Ratner, who lives in a flat at the practice, denies stealing six cheques from her late husband's patient, and an alternative charge that she handled them. She also denies four charges of using a false instrument with intent, two of forging cheques and one deception charge alleging she obtained clothes worth £1,471 from a store in Chelsea.

The prosecution has claimed that Mrs Ratner committed the offences while Miss Berry was receiving treatment for obesity and writing a book about ozone rejuvenation therapy which she was also being given.

Questioned by her counsel,

Henry Blaxland, Mrs Ratner told the court that she was born in Sierra Leone and had married in 1990. The former model began working for her husband as a receptionist as well as helping to find patients for the practice, which was in financial difficulties and had a large overdraft.

There were also problems caused by her husband's poor health, the court was told. Dr Ratner had a "very serious" condition for which he took painkillers.

Asked whether her husband, who died last year, took any other drugs, Mrs Ratner replied: "Yes, cocaine... and morphine." She said she discovered her husband's habit in 1992 when she walked into his surgery. "I saw Eleanor Berry and my husband taking

cocaine and morphine. I screamed at him. I said, 'What are you doing?' He said it was just medication. I said I wasn't so stupid. 'He tried to cool me down. I said, 'Don't hide things from me.' I was very upset."

On another occasion when she went into her husband's office and saw him with Miss Berry there was an empty morphine bottle was on the table. "She asked for more," Mrs Ratner claimed, adding that her husband and the woman also drank alcohol on the premises.

She described Miss Berry, 44, as a "very demanding" woman. "Everything was wrong with her. She wanted medication every minute," Mrs Ratner said. The trial continues.

Disabled pensioner stabbed to death

By ROBIN YOUNG

A HOUSEBOUND pensioner, virtually blind, suffering from cancer and with only one leg, was stabbed to death when he disturbed burglars. Police launched a hunt yesterday for the assailants who left Frank Tranter, 74, of Oldbury, West Midlands, in a pool of blood in the sheltered accommodation where he lived.

Mr Tranter, a former soldier whose left leg had been amputated, had been stabbed in the face and neck. His body was discovered on Monday by the warden of the housing block, Mrs Jane Eliment. Mrs Eliment and her husband, Frank, told police they saw three youths running from the back of the bungalow where

Mr Tranter lived as they returned from an evening out shortly before 10pm on Monday. When they went to investigate they found Mr Tranter's body.

The officer in charge of the inquiry, Detective Chief Inspector Robert Lesserman of West Bromwich police, described Mr Tranter's killing as "particularly vicious and callous". It has yet to be established whether anything had been stolen, but robbery is believed to have been the motive. Police described the wounds to Mr Tranter's face and neck as "extensive".

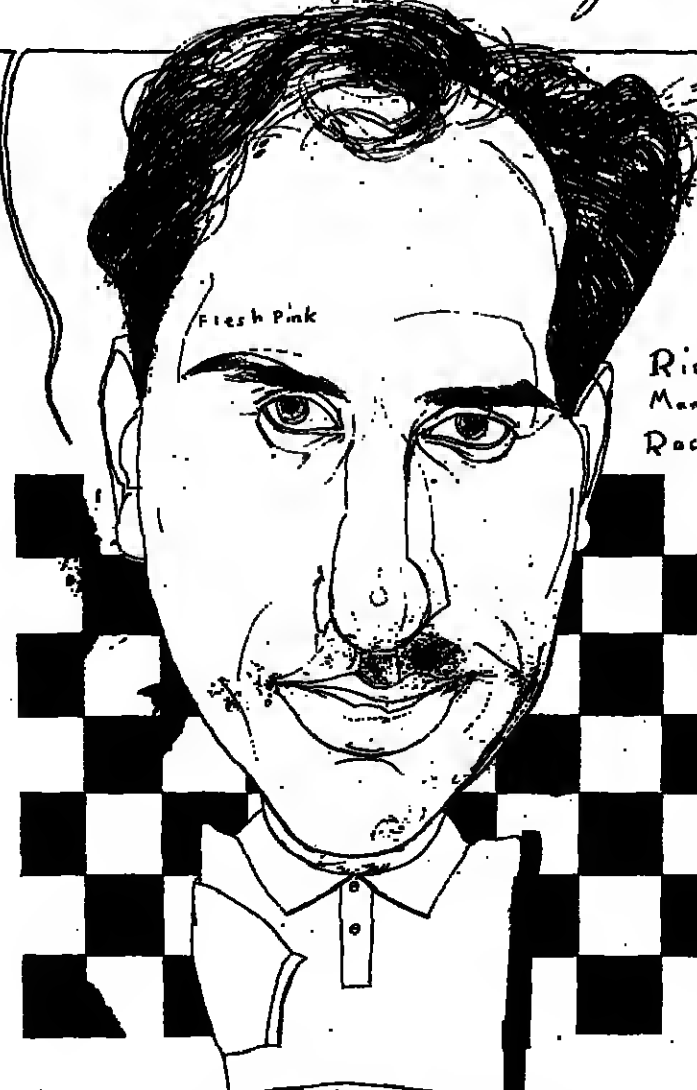
They said that those responsible had smashed a kitchen window to get in.

Sunday Express

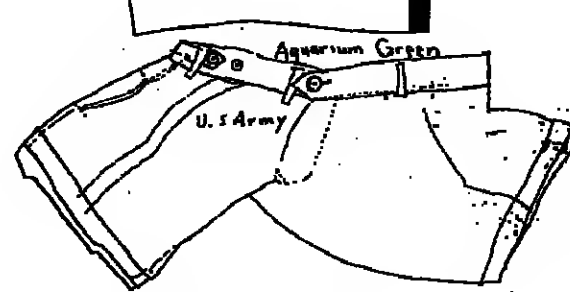
OUR report yesterday that Ian Brady, the moors murderer, had won a malicious falsehood action against *The Sunday Express*, but not been awarded any damages, was wrong. The account, which was compiled from a number of different sources, also incorrectly stated that *The Sunday Express* had admitted that the

allegations were false and been published maliciously. In fact, the newspaper flatly denied the claim and was successful in having it struck out in its entirety. Leave to appeal was refused and the reference in the headline to it being a "libel" action was inaccurate. We apologise for these errors.

RACING GREEN isn't about being FASHIONABLE
IT's about being STYLISH



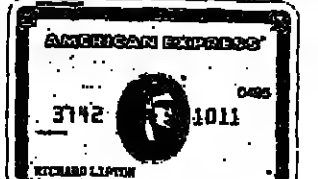
Richard Lipton
Managing Director of
Racing Green



THE CLASSIC GREEN Card is welcomed at

RACING GREEN
(and other colourful places)

That'll do Nicely.



Call 0800 700 444 to apply for the American Express Card.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Women, weakness
and Weidenfeld

GINNY DOUGARY MEETS
GEORGE WEIDENFELD

IN THE
MAGAZINE

16 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR
TELEVISION AND RADIO

IN
VISION



“Take one more shot of me and I’m going to cross that street, jump over that fence, run through that wood, swim that river, climb to the top of that mountain and ram that camera right down your throat.”

Whoever said the camera never lies was, to put it bluntly, lying. And there's no bigger liar than the Olympus Superzoom.

Its 35-120mm lens tells the massive whopper that you're right in the thick of the action when you're actually a safe distance away.

And when, like the charming Ms Bernhard here, your subject is more likely

to respond with something stronger than “cheese” you’ll find the Superzoom’s other features come in handy.

For instance, a high speed recording action captures any fast moves. And when that mouth starts, it really motors.

By re-distributing the camera's weight we have also improved its balance and minimised any camera-shake. So your hand

remains steady even if your pulse isn't.

But if you do get near enough to enjoy a filthy look, the flash makes sure it won't be coming from a pair of red eyes.

In fact, no less than four different flash modes adjust automatically as you get further and further away from your subject.

Throw in an ultra compact, lightweight and weatherproof design and we

think you'll agree it makes quite a neat little package. Which, to be frank, is more than you'll have if Ms Bernhard were ever to get hold of you.



OLYMPUS SUPERZOOM 120

Histor
se rac
nd ren
f Cull

[illegible]

...in the ...

Free die wake of ear test trors

UNOTLAND
DEPENDENT

[illegible]

OLVO
WNERS
Extra Safety =
Exclusive Sch
Tel: 081 3
0727 844
Mill House
The Motor Ins

هكذا من الأصل

Historians use radar to find remains of Culloden

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

ARCHAEOLOGISTS are using ground-penetrating radar in an attempt to locate the remains of the Duke of Cumberland's redcoats who died at the Battle of Culloden in 1746. The equipment, similar to that used to search for bodies at the home of Frederick West in Gloucester, is being hired by the National Trust for Scotland at a cost of £2,500.

The trust, which owns much of the battle site near Inverness, is optimistic that the archaeological investigation will reveal valuable information about one of Scotland's greatest defeats at the hands of the English. It took just one hour for Cumberland's 9,000-strong force to defeat the 4,500 men behind Bonnie Prince Charlie. About 300 Hanoverian soldiers died at the last pitched battle on British soil.

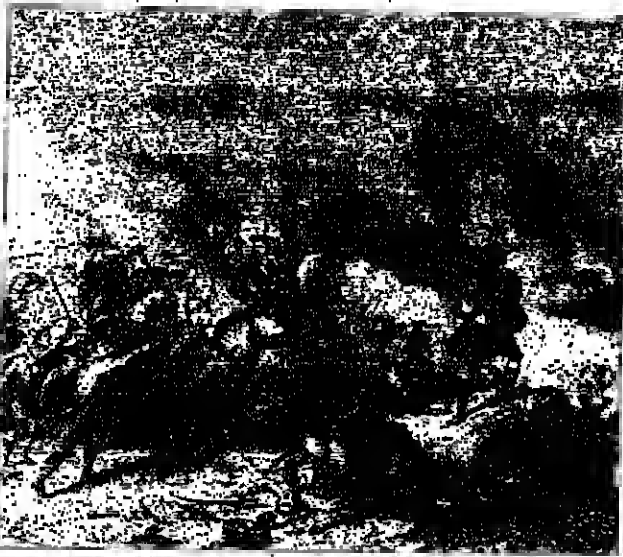
The slaughter continued all night and the bloody reprisals against the Highlanders went on for many months. The Battle of Culloden brought to a crushing end Bonnie Prince Charlie's 18-month Jacobite rebellion. After the battle Highlanders were forbidden to play the bagpipes or wear kilts.

A preliminary scan of the battlefield has been completed and a detailed search will be carried out next year. Ross Mackenzie, of the National Trust, said: "We hope to pick up disturbances in the soil so

that we can determine the main battle lines and four or five cottages that were near the scene. It is a very exciting prospect. We are on the verge of making new discoveries about a landmark in Scottish history."

The initial search will concentrate on *Achadh nan Sasunnach* (The Field of the English) and the trust hopes that the information it yields will be available for an exhibition to mark the 250th anniversary of the battle in 1996. Robin Turner, the trust's archaeologist, said: "The evidence for redcoats being buried there has come down to us through folklore, rather than historical fact. It is known that the Highlanders were mown down by salvos of cannon-fire while they were jammed between two dykes on the field, but we have failed to find traces of these walls by conventional means."

One of the turf dykes was used for penning sheep and cattle and the English soldiers are believed to be buried inside. Mr Turner said that the trust would like to rebuild the turf enclosure and a dyke so that visitors would be better able to appreciate the way the armies were deployed. Permission to dig would have to be granted by the Secretary of State for Scotland because parts of the area are scheduled as an ancient monument.



It took just an hour for the English to beat Bonnie Prince Charlie's 4,500-strong army at Culloden

Three die in wake of smear test errors

By Our Scotland Correspondent

THREE women who were given negative smear test results at the Inverclyde Royal Hospital in Greenock have died of cervical cancer.

Mistakes in the processing of smear tests at the hospital laboratory were caused, by poor management and shoddy work practices, according to a government report.

The three women were given misleading results and died before the errors were discovered in 1993. Their deaths have been revealed in the annual report of the director of public health at the Argyll and Clyde Health Board.

About 20,000 women who were tested between 1987 and 1992 had to be recalled last year. Most were traced, retested and given the all-clear. However, 1,945 women who had tested negative were found to belong to a batch of suspect smears. By the time the women were traced, 33 had died, three from cervical cancer.

Argyll and Clyde Health Board is refusing to name the women who died. So far 112 compensation claims have been lodged. Only one has been settled and ten are being negotiated.

Trafalgar treasures sell for £400,000

By John Shaw

TREASURES of Trafalgar brought the Earl of Northesk, descendant of Nelson's third-in-command, £415,925 at Sotheby's, London, yesterday.

His family had offered the historic group of medals, swords, letters and other memorabilia to the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, but they were turned down. The principal pieces, including Admiral Lord Northesk's gold Trafalgar medal and two others bought for a total £106,000, went to an anonymous private British collector. The estimate for the collection was £200,000.

A draft of one of Churchill's best known wartime speeches, made six days after the victory at El Alamein and saved by a secretary, sold for a record £36,700 at Sotheby's in London yesterday. It was bought by the Imperial War Museum.

An original Captain Scarlett puppet, used in the cult television series during the 1960s, was sold at Phillips in London for £12,075 to an anonymous collector. Victor Neaves, the vendor, kept the puppet in a bank vault in St Albans for over 20 years after being given it by Gerry Anderson, the series creator.



Michelle Reeve, 14, with seven-year-old Abby Bamford after the ceremony

Schoolgirl stabbed in class honoured for her courage

By A Staff Reporter

A GIRL who was taken hostage in a classroom and stabbed 15 times as her friend lay dead on the floor, movingly described her struggle to overcome the trauma as she received an award for her courage yesterday.

Michelle Reeve, 14, was in class at Hall Garth School, Middlesbrough, last March when a hooded man burst in, stabbed 12-year-old Nicola Conroy to death and slashed Michelle and another girl before being overpowered.

Michelle, who suffered serious injuries to her chest, back, arms and kidneys, said: "When things like that happen you take everything as it comes. I knew if I went back to school straight away I would have no difficulties."

She was speaking at Westminster Abbey, where she was given a Children of Courage award by the Duchess of Kent. Also honoured was Rhys Daniels, the three-year-old from Essex who has had two bone marrow transplants and spent weeks in

isolation in his fight against Batten's disease.

There were awards, too, for Jon McNeir, 12, from Newcastle upon Tyne, who saved his father's life after he cut an artery by fashioning a makeshift tourniquet, and for Robbie Cowin, five, from the Isle of Man, who had to sleep for four months balanced on his knees and forehead after suffering severe scalding to his back and head.

Other children honoured were Abby Bamford, seven, from Lancashire, who lost her left ear and suffered serious injuries when she was run over; Dale Jones, eight, from Nottinghamshire, who lost a foot but plays football with the aid of an artificial limb; and Lubna Karim, 11, from Kent, who helped raise money for herself and her mother to travel to teach Romanian orphans. Carla Hutton, 12, from Manchester, received an award for rescuing three children from a fire.

Viking site halts whale burials

By Our Scotland Correspondent

AN ATTEMPT to bury the eleven sperm whales that beached themselves last week on the Orkney Island of Sanday ran into trouble yesterday when the contractors discovered the burial site was in the same area as a partially excavated Viking settlement.

The whales measure between 40 and 50 feet and each weighs around 40 tonnes. Andrew Sinclair, the contractor employed to dispose of the animals, planned to dig a pit three metres deep by 15 metres wide and 30 metres long above the high tide mark on the beach at Backaskall Bay. The whales would then be winched up the beach and into the hole but work was halted on Monday when it was discovered that the Viking settlement could be affected.

David Tongue, assistant director of environmental health in Orkney, said: "As soon as we heard about the archaeological remains we travelled out to the island to identify a more suitable site and ensure any delay was minimal."

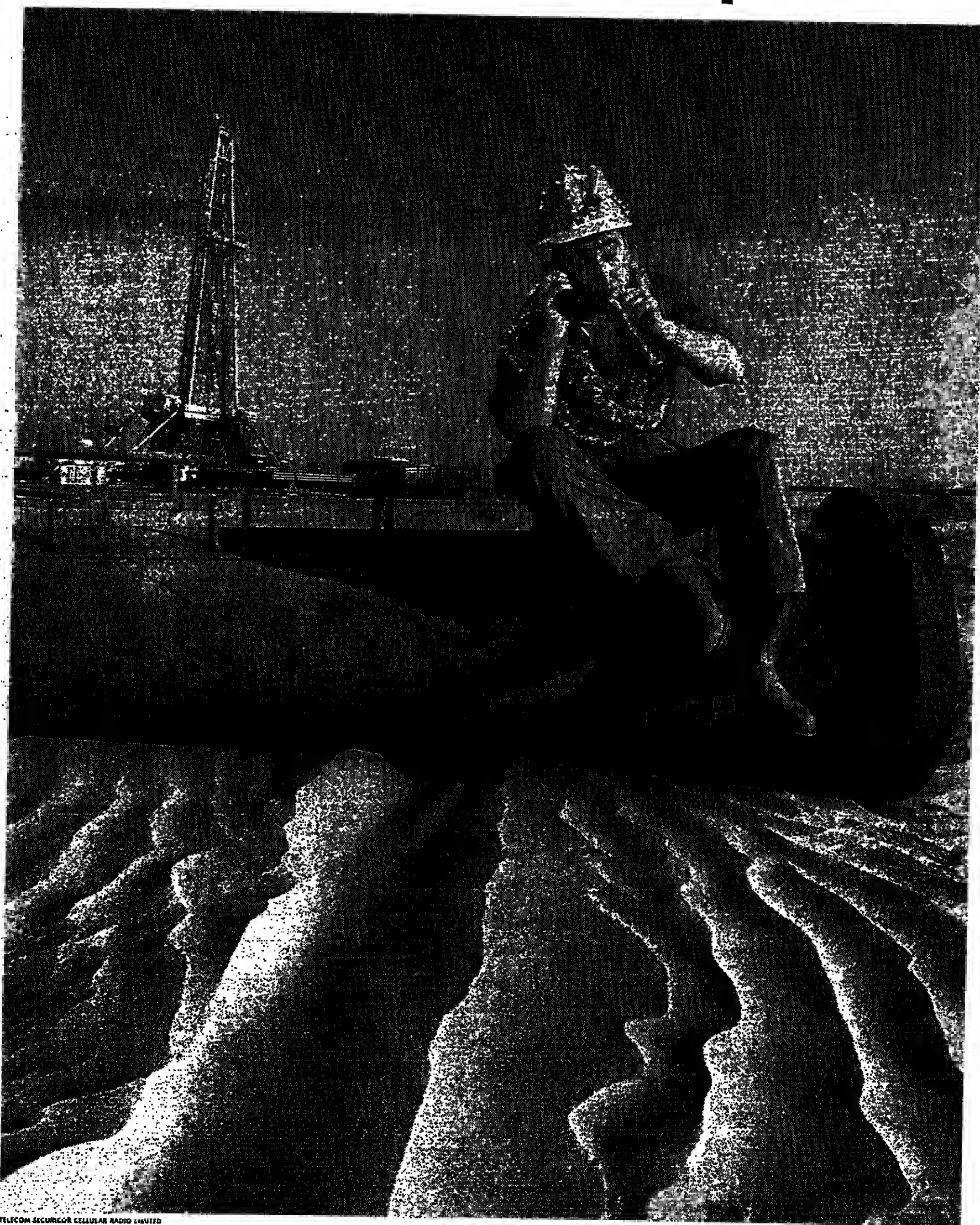
Ah, December 25th in a far off oil field. Wonderful.

Still, thanks to his mobile, he can at least wish Happy Christmas to the folks back home.

He's connected to Cellnet digital. A service that has access to over 15 countries and is growing all the time. And it gives you clearer, sharper calls at no extra cost.

Of course, his being away from home on Christmas Day isn't all bad. He doesn't have to watch repeats of old movies for a start.

He's working away from home this Christmas. Thanks to Cellnet so is his phone.



TELECOM SECURITY CELLULAR RADIO LIMITED

VOLVO OWNERS

COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE FROM **£100**

Extra Safety = Lower Insurance
Exclusive Scheme for Volvos

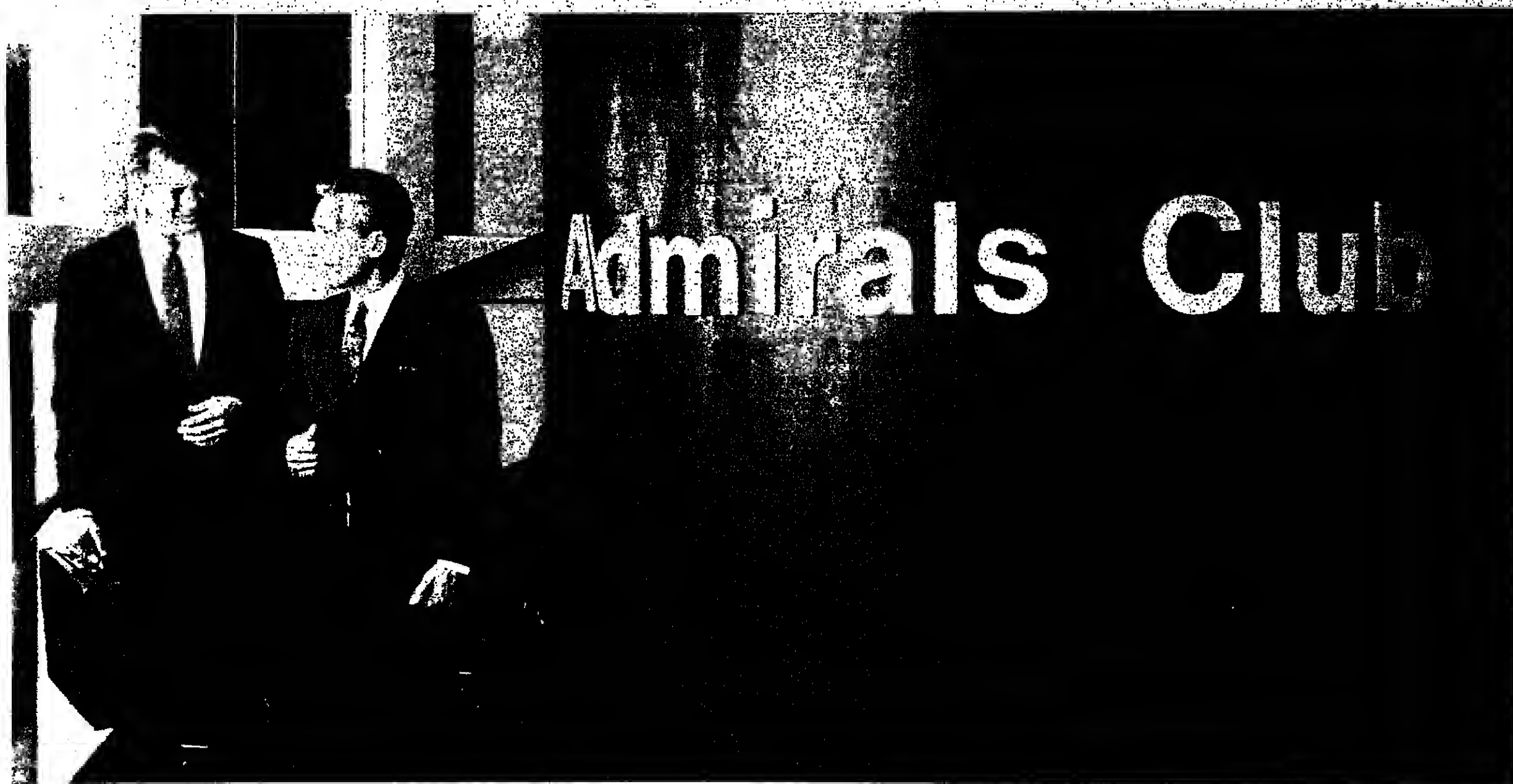
Tel: 081 367 5151 or
0727 844422 NOW!

Hill House Hammond
The Motor Insurance Specialists

The big network. Call 0800 21 4000.



Best of all, it's free for First and Business Class passengers.



Admirals Club. A quiet, friendly place to work or relax at 44 locations worldwide

Admirals Club®

American Airlines and Admirals Club are registered trademarks of American Airlines, Inc. © 1994 American Airlines, Inc. *In the U.S., showers and arrival facilities available in the Admirals Club at JFK, Dallas, Miami, Chicago

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES W
Teacher
Exam
upgr
top
as ro

[illegible]

Portillo
value
of goods

[illegible]

A NEW SUN 0%



FOR MORE

CLUBS SUNNY BOSTON ON REP
WROCKHUSAN MOTED F:RANGE 3 P
A GISEN

Teachers appeal to Shephard in attack on 'weak' GCSE marking system

Exam marks upgraded at top school as row flares

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

FRESH controversy flared yesterday over the marking of GCSE English as it was disclosed that more than half of the pupils at a leading comprehensive were under-marked in this summer's examinations.

Of 225 candidates at Durham Johnston School, in Durham, 126 have had their English literature grades increased on appeal and 58 language results have also been upgraded. The school, which was among the top 20 comprehensives in this year's Government league tables, is one of many to contest English results in the first year of restrictions on coursework. The undermarking proved costly for Fiona Bilborough because her parents had paid for three months' private tutoring before the mistake was rectified. She had intended to take English A level, but has had to settle for history, religious education and sociology. "It is too late to change," she said. "I would have files full of work to catch up if I tried to switch. It has been very disappointing, but there is nothing I

can do." A record number of appeals is expected this year, increasing pressure on ministers to relax their insistence on assessment by examination.

Both the Stuart Bathurst Roman Catholic School, in Wednesbury, West Midlands, and Bohunt School, in Liphook, Hampshire, announced at the weekend that a third of their pupils' literature grades had been increased. In an earlier appeal, three-quarters of the scripts submitted by the John Kelly Girls' Technology College, in North London, were upgraded.

Anne Barnes, general secretary of the National Association for the Teaching of English, said: "We are hearing daily from teachers who are simply amazed at this year's grades. Some are exceptionally good, others incomprehensible because results for literature bear no relation to those for language." Many schools, including Durham Johnston, used syllabuses assessed entirely by coursework until the Government ordered that examinations must account for at least 60 per cent of



Durham Johnston pupils who had their marks upgraded. From left, Andrew Cunningham, Fiona Bilborough, Chris Malkin and Steven Sherrington. They have been revising for resits which they will not now need to take

GCSE marks. The limits for English and other subjects will be reviewed in the new year, but Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, has made it clear that no change is likely in the immediate future. The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority agreed last week to recommend an increase in the proportion of marks that could be awarded for English course work. But even the authority's compromise of a 50 per cent limit, acknowledging the weight of responses from schools, is expected to be rejected. John

Dunford, head teacher of Durham Johnston School, said: "It is particularly disappointing that so many results were wrong the first time we have had to do formal examinations. In the years when we produced course work grades, they were moderated externally and no changes were ever made. In our view, course work represents a much fairer assessment of a broader range of skills in English." Mr Dunford said some pupils resat English unnecessarily last month because of the mistakes, while others had

dropped the subject from their intended portfolio of A levels because their initial grades were not good enough. "The examining board has been completely open, but the results place a question mark over the system because the mistakes are across all grades and in all four papers," Len Roe, the school's head of English, took early retirement in July because of his fears for the effects of a return to assessment by examination. He has told Mrs Shephard in a letter: "In my opinion this kind of disaster is not isolated

or unexpected but the result of an inherent weakness in an examination system which even a highly competent board cannot avoid." Margaret Hutchinson, an assistant chief executive of the Northern Examination and Assessment Board, said there did not seem to be an increase in the rate of appeals. She said: "English involves quite a degree of judgment and differences in marking inevitably occur. If candidates are a few marks below a grade boundary, there is always a chance that grades will be increased."

Employers 'favour' women graduates

By BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN are winning the race for jobs in the reviving graduate employment market, university careers advisers reported yesterday. Employers complain that young men are often immature and fail to prepare for interviews, according to the advisers' annual review, *What Do Graduates Do?*

The report said that 43.9 per cent of those graduating in 1993 found work, up by 3 per cent on the previous year. The improvement came in spite of a 20 per cent increase in the number of graduates competing for vacancies.

The proportion of people unemployed six months after graduation fell from 12.7 per cent in 1992 to 11.7 per cent. Evidence suggests that the improvement is continuing.

Margaret Wallis, president of the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, said employers are increasingly targeting traditional universities in their quest for recruits.

The report found that employment prospects for those taking non-vocational degrees were continuing to improve. Economics, geography, history, mathematics, modern languages and psychology all showed employment rates at least 3 per cent up on 1992. At least one in eight graduates in sociology, physics, computing, civil engineering and electronic engineering failed to find work.



Stromvik: chose the right paperback

Thriller ends in round the world trip

MARIA STROMVIK, a student from Sweden, is the winner of *The Times/Dillons Bestsellers* competition. She wins a round-the-world air ticket, courtesy of BT Chargecard, and £250 spending money.

To enter the competition, readers had to examine the *Dillons* bestseller list printed in the *Weekend* section on November 5 and guess which of the top ten paperbacks would be in the same position three weeks later.

Ms Stromvik, 26, who is studying for a BA in politics at South Bank University, London, guessed correctly that the Scandinavian thriller, *Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow*, by Peter Hoeg (Flamingo) would remain at number three.

Portillo stresses value to Britain of good training

By ANJANA AHUJA

MICHAEL PORTILLO, the Employment Secretary, yesterday announced nearly a hundred awards for achievement in the field of training. The awards, presented by the Government in central London, were said: "We are all too fond of self-deception in this country. Today we have a welcome chance to celebrate. These awards are about winning and achieving and about being the best. They are paving the way for UK plc."

Mr Portillo said the award winners were "independent, determined and persistent. They are not sitting around waiting to be helped, and we need more people to take responsibility for themselves."

Nearly 3,400 nominations were received for 99 awards, most of which went to organisations. Fifteen went to individuals who had overcome obstacles. Mr Portillo also presented awards to organisations involved in training women, members of ethnic minorities and those with special needs.

The *Times* award for training "to meet the challenge of international competition" went to Deritend Precision Castings Limited, from Droitwich, Hereford and Worcester, which designs and manufactures blades for the



Paul Farrow of Deritend was proud of colleagues

aerospace industry. Deritend's sales doubled and exports tripled in three years after a new managing director began a training programme for all 283 employees.

Paul Farrow, the managing director, said he was elated to accept the award. "We really feel proud of the people we work with," Mr Portillo praised Deritend for "spectacular" results.

Awards Supplement

Law is 'too vast and complex' for young

By LUCY BERRINGTON

A GENERATION of school leavers and young people knows little or nothing about the law because the legal system has become too vast and incomprehensible, leading lawyers and citizenship campaigners said yesterday.

Launching *The Young Citizen's Passport*, a manual for school leavers, Charles Elly, president of the Law Society, said: "It makes no sense for a society to construct an edifice of laws so complex, so distant and so formidable that it is no longer the law of the man and woman on the Clapham omnibus, but seen as the law of the judges, the politicians, the lawyers and the police."

The passport, produced by the Citizenship Foundation, an independent educational charity, is a short practical guide on subjects such as money, family and the police and courts. It also has sections on sex, drugs and parties, and aims to fill the gaps on legal and social issues left by the National Curriculum.

Andrew Phillips, chairman of the foundation, said: "A growing proportion of our population can fairly be described as outlaws... in the sense of being without the law in terms of knowing little or nothing about it."

WILL YOU LOSE OUT ON INTEREST WHEN YOUR EXISTING BOND MATURES?

Abbey National High Yield Bond customers won't. Our Bond offers attractive rates of interest without tying your money up for more than a year and with the option of a monthly income.

INVESTMENT AMOUNT	GROSS RATE p.a.	NET RATE p.a.
£200,000 plus	7.35%	5.51%
£100,000 up to £199,999	7.20%	5.40%
£50,000 up to £99,999	7.10%	5.33%
£25,000 up to £49,999	6.90%	5.18%
£10,000 up to £24,999	6.65%	4.99%

Whether you have a bond that is about to mature, or you are simply looking to make the most out of your investment we are here to help. To find out more just call us free on 0800 100 801 (Monday to Friday 9.00am - 9.00pm) quoting reference Z212, or complete and send in the coupon below. Alternatively, call into your local branch and ask for details.



The habit of a lifetime

Rates may vary and are correct at time of going to press. Monthly rates are available from any Abbey National branch. The term of the Bond runs from the date of opening until the first day of the following month a year later. Interest will be paid gross to eligible non-tax payers who register with us as required by the Inland Revenue otherwise it will be paid net of basic rate income tax (currently 25%). You may be able to reclaim this tax from the Inland Revenue. Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL.

For details on The Abbey National High Yield Bond please complete and send to: Abbey National Direct, FREEPOST, Bournemouth BH1 2TA.

TITLE (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms): _____ INITIALS: _____ SURNAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____ DAYTIME TEL NO: _____ EVENING TEL NO: _____

A NEW SUNNY WITH 0% FINANCE



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0345 800 600

*EXCLUDED SUNNY HOLIDAY. 0% FINANCE OFFER IS SUBJECT TO STATUS. APPLICANTS MUST BE 21 OR OVER. FINANCE OFFER AVAILABLE THROUGH NISSAN MOTOR FINANCE. A FINANCE MAY BE REQUIRED. SUNNY HOLIDAY FINANCE OFFER AVAILABLE UNTIL JANUARY 31ST 1995. A GUARANTEE MUST BE PROVIDED. WRITTEN APPROVALS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

TV star Paul McKenna defends entertainers against accusations of irresponsibility

Minister orders legal review of stage hypnotists

By RICHARD FORD AND MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE Government is to review the law governing stage hypnotism after a series of complaints over acts in pubs and clubs and growing fears about safety.

Britain's best known hypnotist, the television performer Paul McKenna, yesterday defended the profession against accusations of irresponsibility but would not comment on allegations made against him when the matter of hypnosis was raised in the House of Commons on Monday night.

Tim Smith, a Tory MP for Beaconsfield, said that Christopher Gates, 26, had attended one of Mr McKenna's shows and "he was put into regression and left unattended throughout the interval".

He added: "After the show he felt unwell. He was referred to a psychiatric unit for four weeks. Nine months later his condition has deteriorated severely and he now thinks of himself as eight years old and behaves like an eight-year-old. He must be accompanied by an adult at all times."

Mr Gates is considering legal action against Mr McKenna, but his solicitor said he was "finding it very difficult" to fight the case.

Mr McKenna, whose prime-time hypnosis show on Carlton Television has just finished and who was last night on tour in Ipswich, said: "I do not think it is appropriate for me to comment on

individual cases concerning someone's psychiatric condition, which of course is confidential to them. Whether it was appropriate for Mr Smith to do so is a matter for him."

He said he had been actively campaigning for reforms to outlaw unscrupulous hypnotists. "If I thought that my act posed any danger to the general public I would certainly not be doing it."

Ministers are now under pressure to bring in stricter controls and close loopholes in existing regulations that have allowed stage hypnotists to operate without a licence. Campaigners for tougher rules want a central register of hypnotists, a code of conduct and compulsory liability insurance, while others are demanding an outright ban.

Michael Forsyth, a junior

Home Office minister, announced the review yesterday and promised it would look at the licensing system and at possible risks to people. There have been a number of incidents in which it is alleged that people have suffered harm as a result of stage hypnotism. Margaret Harper, whose daughter Sharron, aged 24, died five hours after being hypnotised in a nightclub, said the Home Office review was "brilliant news".

Sharron Tabarn died in December 1993 from a fit hours after being told to emerge from a hypnotic trance as if a 10,000-volt electric shock had passed through her chair. She had been to a show in Leyland, Lancashire.

Mrs Harper, who founded the Campaign Against Stage Hypnotism in January, said of the announcement: "This is exactly what is needed to make people more aware of the problems and dangers of stage hypnotism."

Mr Forsyth told MPs in an adjournment debate that though there was not a case for banning stage hypnotism, "there are genuine concerns, whether justified or not, about the possible adverse consequences that some people might suffer after participating".

He added that there were also difficulties in enforcing controls under the 1952 Hypnotism Act.



McKenna denies his act poses any danger



Sharron Tabarn, who died five hours after being hypnotised, and her children

MP tells of 'hellish' aftermath for trance victims

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

AN MP who pressed for tougher rules on hypnotism said yesterday that he wanted to stop "cowboys" from endangering the public. Colin Pickthall, Labour MP for Lancashire West, said some hypnotists did not seem to care about the after-effects. "It is possible for someone to learn quickly how to hypnotise people and within days to be doing so on stage, even though that person does not understand, and possibly

does not even care about the consequences of what he is doing. It is those 'cowboys' that we are most worried about."

Mr Pickthall told MPs of a series of cases, including one member of the public who had become a compulsive onion-cater after undergoing hypnosis and another who went into a trance every time someone clapped. The MP said he began campaigning for changes to the rules after being alerted by Margaret Harper, whose daughter Sharron Tabarn died after being

hypnotised at a club in Leyland, Lancashire. He said Mrs Tabarn was told to come out of her trance as if she had received a 10,000-volt electric shock. "Her husband took her home in a somewhat dazed state, and five hours later she died," Mr Pickthall told MPs.

The inquest recorded a verdict of accidental death and an expert witness declared that there was no connection between hypnosis and any physical side effects. But Mr Pickthall said: "That is patently nonsense. The Home Office pathologist

said, 'It is hard not to think there was a link'. My view is that the coincidence is too great to be dismissed."

Other cases he highlighted included a man from Prestatyn, Clwyd, who was unable to work or hold a conversation as a result of stage hypnotism and had attempted suicide. David Barill, of Blackpool, collapsed immediately after being brought round from a trance. "He went crazy - his words - and had to be re-hypnotised. He suffered from violent headaches for weeks

afterwards," Mr Pickthall said. A man from Barnet, north London, had suffered violent headaches since being hypnotised in 1992. "He describes it as having made his life hell," the MP said. A Rotherham man was said to suffer headaches, violent uncontrollable anger and persistent panic attacks. He had been in hospital several times, receiving anti-depressants, and had a permanent sleeping disorder. Dean Chambers, from Blackpool, had a paralysed arm for four weeks after being placed in a trance.

Research loophole allows the show to go on

By A STAFF REPORTER

STAGE hypnotism in public houses and clubs is governed by laws passed in the 1950s and guidelines issued in the 1980s.

The 1952 Hypnotism Act was passed after a woman said she suffered depression after taking part in a stage act. It says that halls, pubs and clubs must apply to the local authority for a licence to put on a public performance. Under the Home Office guidelines issued in 1989, hypnotists can be fined up to £400 for staging acts in a club or other place of entertainment without permission from the council.

Volunteers must be over 18 and there should be no regression to childhood, which can awaken traumas, or cataplexy, where the subject is convinced his body has gone rigid.

Local authorities were advised in 1989 to attach conditions to licences including checking whether the hypnotist has been refused a licence in the past. Volunteers should not be made to behave in an "indecent, offensive or harmful" manner or to consume harmful substances, and all hypnotic suggestions must be removed from the minds of subjects, including the audience. The guidance recommends that no inducement should be offered to members of the public to take part.

The statutory controls do not, however, cover hypnotism for "medical, scientific research", and there have been reports of stage hypnotism for "research purposes" in public houses.

MPs were told yesterday that David Tabb had gone ahead with a performance in a public house after the council had refused permission for his show. Colin Pickthall, Labour MP for Lancashire West, said in the Commons that Mr Tabb had told *Stage & Television Today*: "Under the wording of the Act you don't need permission for research so I just say my show is private research and there is nothing they can do."

Shoppers chase raiders

Christmas shoppers ran after three smash and grab raiders who stole seven watches worth £25,000 from the window of a jewellers in the Harlequin Centre, Watford, yesterday. A police officer was injured in the chase that followed on the M1 and M25 as his car was deliberately rammed. Three people from north London were arrested.

Officer charged

An RAF squadron leader appeared in court charged with the manslaughter of a soldier who was decapitated during an air-drop exercise. Michael Marston, 41, of RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, was released on bail by Cirencester magistrates until January 10.

Fatal sleep

A man who slept in his garage car after a "boys' night out" died from exhaust fumes, Mathew Haycock, 23, who turned on the engine for heat, did not want to wake his wife and child. The Hull inquest was told. Verdict: accident.

Murder inquest

An inquest was opened into the death of Michael McNaghan, a scientist shot through the kitchen window at his Oxford home. The coroner, Nicholas Gardiner, adjourned the hearing in Oxford for six weeks.

Funfair death

A father and son have been charged with the manslaughter of a customer who fell to his death from their fairground ride. James Burton, 44, and his son, also James, 22, of Shedfield, Hampshire, will appear in court next year.

Jewellery raid

Thieves stole a 500lb safe containing £38,000 in jewellery and cash from a house in Stockport, Greater Manchester, by cutting through a bedroom ceiling.

Joker banned

Eddie Messenger, a squash coach from Manchester, has been banned for life by Britain Airways after joking that he was carrying a missile.

A NEW SUNNY FROM £126 PER MONTH (14.1% APR)

*PLUS DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT



P R E F E R E N C E S							
Typical example - Sunny Boston 3-door £7,597.75 on the road							
DEPOSIT (35%)	AMOUNT BORROWED	TERM (MONTHS)	MONTHLY PAYMENT (24%)	FINAL PAYMENT	APR	INTEREST CHARGED PLUS ADMIN. FEE OF £60	TOTAL PAYABLE
£2,709.21	£5,198.54	25	£125.51	£3,299.08	14.1%	£1,172.70	£9,170.45

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0345 800 600

PRICE IS ON THE ROAD AND INCLUDES 3 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE AND A DELIVERY PACKAGE OF £420 (COMPRISING DELIVERY TO DEALER, NUMBER PLATE AND A FULL TANK OF FUEL). FINANCE OFFER IS SUBJECT TO CREDIT ASSESSMENT. APPLICANTS MUST BE AGED 18 OR OVER. FINANCE OFFER AVAILABLE THROUGH NISSAN MOTOR FINANCE, 3 PRINCESS WAY, REPHILL, SURREY RH1 1TP. ON CARS REGISTERED AS RETAIL SALES UNTIL DECEMBER 31ST 1994. 1 ADMINISTRATION FEE OF £60 AVAILABLE WITH FIRST MONTHLY PAYMENT. NISSAN PREFERENCE ONLY AVAILABLE AT PARTICIPATING DEALERS. A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED. VARIATION CONDITIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. MODELS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

Save up to £5



Boots Deluxe 8 Cup Chrome Cafetiere
SAVE £5 NOW £19.99

Boots 8 Cup Black Cafetiere
SAVE £1 NOW £8.99

Also available:
Boots Deluxe 8 Cup Gold Cafetiere
SAVE £5 NOW £29.99
Boots Breakfast Cafetiere
SAVE £2 NOW £12.99

Available in larger Boots stores until 24th December 1994.
Subject to availability.

Boots
Someone Cares

Flood victims with no insurance fall prey to loan sharks

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

FAMILIES made homeless by flooding in Paisley, Strathclyde, have been warned not to succumb to loan sharks who have descended on the Ferguslie Park housing scheme, charging interest of up to 1,000 per cent.

Strathclyde Regional Council has printed leaflets advising people who are approached to seek advice from trading standards officers, citizens' advice volunteers and social workers at the Apex emergency centre in Ferguslie Park, one of the most deprived housing estates in Strathclyde. About 300 people have been flooded out in Paisley and very few have insurance.

Hugh Dougherty, of Strathclyde Region, said: "Most people have no insurance and no possessions. Christmas is coming and they are facing a cash crisis. The loan sharks take their DSS benefit books as collateral and charge up to 1,000 per cent interest. We are trying to warn people that

their situation will only get worse if they succumb."

The flood waters started to recede yesterday. Electricity companies battled to reconnect damaged homes before a frost, forecast for today, made the situation worse. The removal of sewage from basements was made a priority because of the potential health hazard.

One person is still missing and 700 people have been made homeless. Police have found the bodies of James McClement and John Fury, both 17, from Twechar, and the car in which they were swept away when a bridge collapsed on Saturday. The third man, Ian Graham, 35, of East Cluden, Dunfries, was presumed dead after he fell into waters at Devorgilla Bridge, Whitesands.

As the local authority started to count the cost of cleaning up, the Government was criticised by opposition MPs for failing to pledge

money for the emergency. Mr Dougherty said the bill for Strathclyde would run into millions of pounds.

There is already a massive overtime bill for staff dealing with the flooding. The regional authority has pledged to deal with the emergency now and count the cost later but its budget is stretched. The council faces the possibility of rate capping next year and it will already have to increase its council tax by 25 per cent and cut services by 5 per cent to maintain standards. Mr Dougherty said it was too early to say what the total cost of the flooding would be and how it would affect the council tax.

George Robertson, Shadow Scottish secretary, said: "The Government's response has been pathetic."

He accused Allan Stewart, the Scottish Office Minister, of being a Scrooge. "He should show some humanity at Christmas time," Mr Robertson said.



Craig Byres with his cat Jinty McInty leaving his family's flooded home on the Ferguslie Estate in Paisley, Strathclyde. The floods have started to recede.

Money study fails to justify image of 'ruthless lender'

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

BORROWING money from licensed moneylenders is an extremely expensive way for many poor people to get credit, with annual interest rates ranging from 100 to 500 per cent, according to a survey published today.

Most of the three million people borrowing from 12,000 licensed moneylenders pay little or no attention to the rate because they are concerned only about the amount of cash borrowed and the level of weekly repayments. The first study of the licensed moneylending industry found that, in spite of a poor image, lenders were not "ruthless loan sharks". There was no evidence of intimidation, threats or violence being used to extract payment from customers. However, the Policy Studies Institute study said there was evidence that the strong personal relationships between collectors and customers encouraged dependence and possible manipulation.

Karen Rowlington, author of the report, said the drawbacks of a licensed money-

lender included the very high interest rates and the practice of allowing customers to pay off an old loan with a new one. Her report said that moneylenders' customers had limited access to other forms of credit "and so have little choice".

The high cost of credit was mainly due to the expense of doorstep collection and the risks of lending to those on low and unstable incomes. The study found that few people were in a desperate state when they approached a moneylender. Some wanted to buy consumer goods, others to smooth out the ups and downs of irregular incomes.

The Consumer Credit Association welcomed the main conclusion that there was no exploitation but said that criticism of the high interest rates failed to acknowledge that the average loan was £150, a sum most banks would not be interested in lending.

Moneylenders and their Customers (Policy Studies Institute, £9.95)

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer East	Game all
<p>♠ 10 8 3 ♥ K 10 2 ♦ J 9 2 ♣ A K 4 2</p> <p>♠ K Q J 7 ♥ A 9 8 ♦ 10 8 ♣ Q J 10 5</p>	<p>♠ 9 8 2 ♥ J 7 6 5 ♦ Q 7 3 ♣ 7 3</p> <p>♠ A 5 ♥ Q 4 3 ♦ A K 8 6 4 ♣ 9 8 8</p>
W	N
Dble 14	Rdble 3NT
Pass	Pass
	Opening lead: ♠ K

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Graham Kirby and John Armstrong will be appearing in the Macallan International Pairs in January. They have been the mainstay of most British teams for the past ten years or so. Their bidding is aggressive, so their declarer play needs to be excellent as they are often in optimistic contracts. On this deal, from a match against Wales, Kirby made his 3NT contract, while the Welsh declarer went down in 2NT.

Both declarers received a spade lead which removed the entry to the diamond suit. The Welsh declarer, who had heard a similar start to the auction, expected East to have the diamond length. As he only needed four tricks in the suit, he chose to play a low diamond to the eight, jack and queen. Later he played for the eight to have been a singleton

and ran the nine, thus losing two diamond tricks and his contract.

Kirby has greater experience in such contracts and soon showed the way home. He won the ace of spades, played a heart to the king and led the jack of diamonds. It was hard for East to cover — he might easily be crashing his partner's singleton king — so he played low. Now Kirby had nine tricks — five diamond tricks, one trick in each major, and two in clubs.

Macallan Pairs

The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship, in association with The Times and The Sunday Times, will be held at the White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1, on January 25, 26 and 27. For details and tickets contact the English Bridge Union, Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3BG (tel 0296 394414).

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

England triumph

With two rounds to go in the chess Olympiad in Moscow the English team has finally scored a smashing victory over a major rival that has brought them within striking distance of the lead.

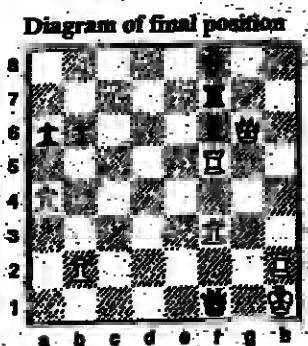
England annihilated "Yugoslavia", a team comprised exclusively of Serbs playing under the Yugoslav flag, by the score of 3.5-0.5. There were wins by Short, Adams and Hodgson and a draw by Smeethman.

Top scores now are: Russia A 29, Russia B 28.5, Estonia, Netherlands, Bosnia and England 28.

White: Ilincic (Yugoslavia)
Black: Hodgson (England)
Moscow Olympiad, 1994

Pire Defence

1 d4	d6
2 e4	Nf6
3 Nc3	g6
4 Nf3	Bg7
5 Bc3	O-O
6 Be3	a6
7 a4	b6
8 Bb4	e6
9 Qd2	Qd5
10 Bc3	Bb7
11 Ne5	Nb4
12 Nxb4	dxb4
13 Qx4	Bc5
14 Bg5	f6
15 Qd2	Bb7
16 Ng6	Ng6
17 Qd4	Rf7
18 Ne5	Bc5
19 Nd7	Kd7



After 39 Qd4 Qxg1+ 40 Kxg1 Bb4+ Black wins the white rook.

Georgia leads

In the parallel competition for women's teams in Moscow the squad from Georgia has virtually assured itself of the gold medals.

With 26.5 points, they have opened up a three point margin over their closest rivals, the Hungarians. The English women have 19 points.

Winning Move, page 44



That's the trouble with retirement. You never get a decent pay rise.

If your income's at the mercy of interest rates, the last five years have brought scant cheer.

And, frankly, it'll take a lot more than just half a per cent to set the world to rights.

But now, at last, there's a really good offer on the table.

The new Distribution Bond from Scottish Amicable aims to pay you a net income of 5% in year one.

Respectable enough. But what makes the Bond special is that we manage your investment not just for income, but for capital growth as well.

As a result, the Bond offers the prospect of your income rising over the years — a process entirely separate from interest rates.

So much for the pay. What about the conditions?

In Scottish Amicable, you'll be investing with one of the UK's most highly respected financial institutions.

And while our investment experts work your money hard, they're careful to spread it across a wide range of assets, to keep risk to a minimum.

So talk to your financial adviser, call us free, or clip the coupon. For a

decent rise this year, we doubt you'll find a better package.

For a free leaflet on Scottish Amicable's Distribution Bond, simply dial 100 and ask for

FREEPHONE AMICABLE

Or post the coupon to: Scottish Amicable, FREEPOST, Glasgow G3 7BR. Do you currently have a financial adviser? Yes/No (Please delete).

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____

Initials _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Occupation _____

Marital Status _____ No. of children _____

No salesman will call. However, the details you are being asked to supply may be used to provide you with details of the services which Scottish Amicable and its subsidiaries offer. Please tick here if you do not wish to receive this information. ☐ We will not pass your name on to any unconnected organisation.

Scottish Amicable

There's always an Amicable solution

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT. THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY IS IN SCOTLAND AT 150 ST. VINCENT STREET, GLASGOW G2 5NQ. REGISTRATION NO. 212. MEMBER OF THE LIFE ASSURANCE AND UNIT TRUST REGULATORY ORGANISATION, THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH INSURERS AND THE INSURANCE OMBUDSMAN BUREAU. SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, SCOTTISH AMICABLE PENSIONS INVESTMENTS, SCOTTISH AMICABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS AND SCOTTISH AMICABLE INTERNATIONAL ASSURANCE PLC FORM A MARKETING GROUP. THE VALUE OF YOUR INVESTMENT MAY FLUCTUATE AND IS NOT GUARANTEED.

Referendum pledge will fuel party strife, Major told

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TORY pro-Europeans warned John Major yesterday that an early announcement of a referendum on Europe would intensify rather than quell internal party strife.

As the Prime Minister was accused of giving way to a minority by moving towards a referendum, senior ministers said privately that promising such a move now would be fraught with dangers for the Government.

They argued that it would mean the effective opening of a referendum campaign that could go on for years, with disputes between the opposing camps about the questions to be put and interminable speculation about the stance of individual ministers.

Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine are among the ministers understood to be against a referendum in principle, and they are believed to be even more concerned about the possibility of an imminent promise of one.

Mr Major is felt by the pro-Europeans to have gone far enough with his declaration on Monday that if the circumstances warranted it a referendum would be staged. Yesterday he again held open the prospect, but cautiously stated that constitutional issues would have to be considered and that "snap judgments" would be unwise.

In the Commons Tim Yeo, MP for Suffolk South, said that if the outcome of the 1996 inter-governmental conference (IGC) was to produce substantial changes in the EU then the use of a referendum

might be justified. "But in the intervening period, speculation about the kind of question to be asked is entirely fruitless."

Mr Major agreed, saying: "It is indeed extremely difficult in advance of the IGC to know precisely what the question might be in a referendum."

He is, however, under Cabinet pressure for the Government to agree a line on a referendum that would hold at least until the 1996 conference on the future shape of Europe.

A fierce attack on Mr Major's latest shift came from Sir Edward Heath, who took Britain into Europe. He said that if Mr Major had taken the step towards a poll to appease Tory MPs who had had the party whip withdrawn over their Euro-revolt it would "fail completely, and is therefore mistaken".

The Tory outcasts had got the upper hand. "They, in fact, are running the country and the Government. I don't find

that acceptable and now is the time to say so quite bluntly. This is one of the things that is deplorable at the moment."

Sir Edward said on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that one of the reasons the public had become more inclined towards a referendum was because they had lost confidence in Parliament and the Government. "All that is quite evident from public opinion polls, it can't be denied. They [the public] are saying we must find some other way, and the other way is to have a referendum."

"The way to deal with it is for the Government to regain its authority, and for Parliament to show it does know how to behave."

Sir Edward said the Tory rebels were "relentless in their pursuit both of the Prime Minister and to get us out of the European Union".

He added: "So this [move towards a referendum] is pointless and can be very damaging because it shows he has given way to small minority in the whole of our party."

He said the 1975 referendum on staying in the European Community came after Harold Wilson, then the Prime Minister, had his arms twisted by some Cabinet members.

"We won the referendum by 66 per cent to 33 per cent, but the people who demanded the referendum in his Cabinet... have never, never, never accepted the result. So from the parliamentary point there, it was pointless, a failure."

There is more to the affair than that, but not nearly as much as the Opposition parties and the overseas aid lobby claim. Only if you believe that overseas aid should be focused solely on the relief of poverty in the Third World is it wrong for Britain to become involved in projects like Pergau.

If you do not take that view, then it is a practical question of value for money. The Aid and Trade Provision, established by a Labour Government, anyway only amounts to 6 per cent of the overall overseas aid budget.

Dealing with governments in Third World countries often involves tact, or explicit, understandings about links between aid and other matters, such as arms. That seems to have occurred in this case when Baroness Thatcher had her talks with the Malaysian Prime Minister in 1988 — producing what Mr Hurd yesterday referred to, euphemistically and with evident embarrassment, as a "temporary entanglement".

The affair has highlighted Lady Thatcher's tendency to regard herself as chief saleswoman for British industry overseas and her highly personal way of doing business with heads of other governments. In the late Thatcher years, lines between business and politics often became blurred. But once she had given her word, her successor, and other ministers such as Mr Hurd, believed it would be against the national interest, and very damaging to Britain's relations with Malaysia, to break that pledge.

That is why the Foreign Secretary overruled Sir Tim Lankaster, then permanent secretary and accounting officer for the Overseas Development Administration, who had entered a formal note of protest because of his doubts about the economic viability of the project. Some of his doubts have been borne out and the cost of the dam has risen sharply compared with estimates in 1983.

Otherwise, the point at issue is whether the support for the Pergau dam came under the right budget. The High Court ruled that the project should not have been financed under the relevant provisions of the Overseas Development and Co-operation Act. Mr Hurd has decided not to appeal against this judgment. Instead, he has proposed that the costs of the Pergau dam assistance, and three smaller projects which might fall outside the law as interpreted by the court, should now be financed separately. This year and next, funding will come from the reserve, at a cost of £65 million. That is a sensible compromise, which incidentally means more money for aid to Bosnia and other relief in the short term. It is certainly not a resigning matter.

Mr Hurd was saddled with a commitment, with possibly murky edges, made by Lady Thatcher. The court found against him not on this aspect of the deal but on the accounting point. As Michael Howard can also testify, this case shows how much secretaries of state are now constrained by the courts. The growth of a judicial review is now one of the most underappreciated aspects of the British political system.

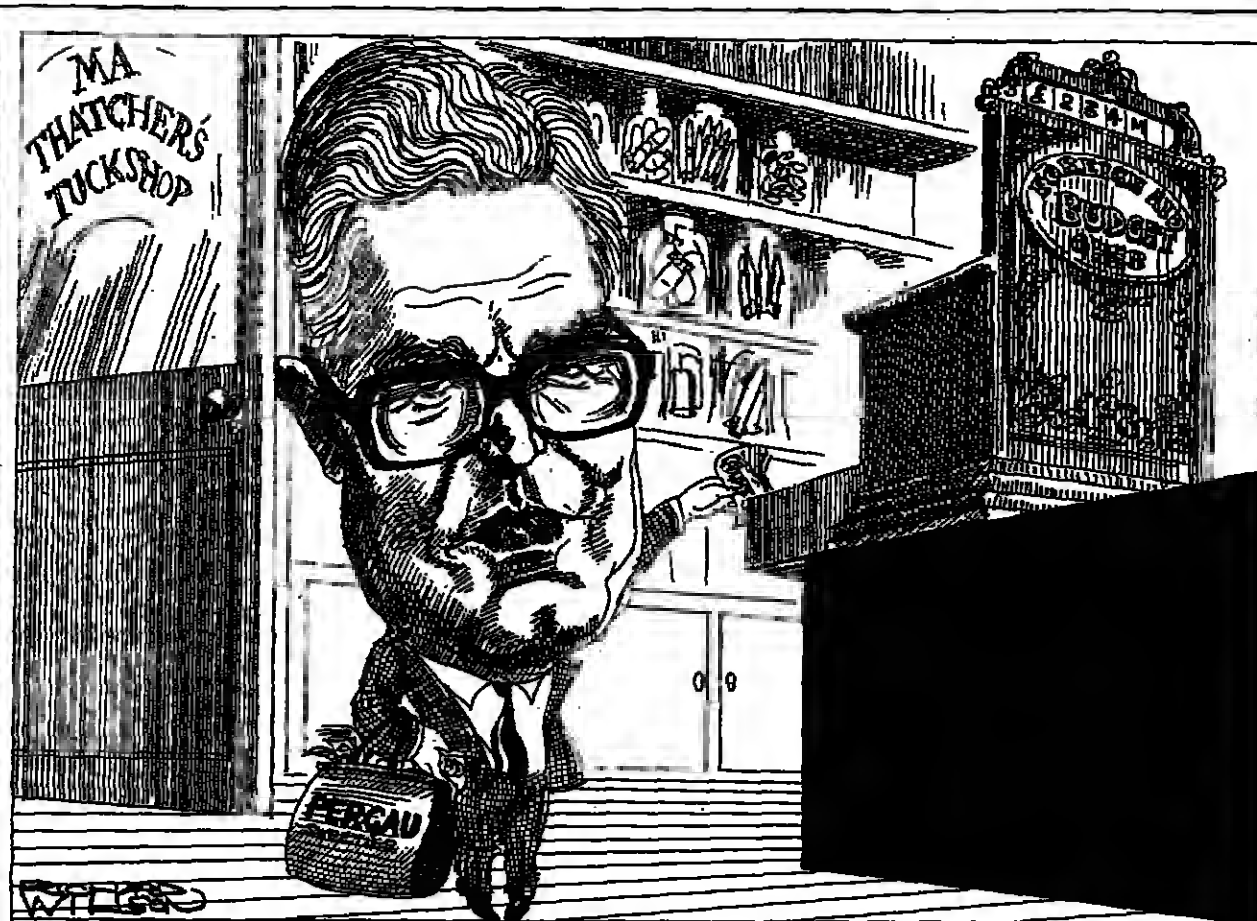
The main lesson of the Pergau affair is that such export aid should all be out in the open and not semi-hidden under the overseas aid budget as somehow linked to aid for the poor in the Third World. Only then can the main question be answered of whether the aid for any project produces a good return in British orders and jobs. That is how Pergau should be judged.

By Peter Riddell



Heath: Tory outcasts have the upper hand

John Patten, page 18



Hurd sorts out compromise from a scandal of small proportions

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The Pergau affair is now over — buried yesterday by Douglas Hurd.

As a scandal it never amounted to much in the first place. It was largely a matter of accounting practice. No British minister or official misappropriated funds. British industry won large contracts providing jobs here. For most voters, and some right-wing Tory MPs like John Townend, that is the end of the story.

There is more to the affair than that, but not nearly as much as the Opposition parties and the overseas aid lobby claim. Only if you believe that overseas aid should be focused solely on the relief of poverty in the Third World is it wrong for Britain to become involved in projects like Pergau. If you do not take that view, then it is a practical question of value for money. The Aid and Trade Provision, established by a Labour Government, anyway only amounts to 6 per cent of the overall overseas aid budget.

Dealing with governments in Third World countries often involves tact, or explicit, understandings about links between aid and other matters, such as arms. That seems to have occurred in this case when Baroness Thatcher had her talks with the Malaysian Prime Minister in 1988 — producing what Mr Hurd yesterday referred to, euphemistically and with evident embarrassment, as a "temporary entanglement".

The affair has highlighted Lady Thatcher's tendency to regard herself as chief saleswoman for British industry overseas and her highly personal way of doing business with heads of other governments. In the late Thatcher years, lines between business and politics often became blurred. But once she had given her word, her successor, and other ministers such as Mr Hurd, believed it would be against the national interest, and very damaging to Britain's relations with Malaysia, to break that pledge.

That is why the Foreign Secretary overruled Sir Tim Lankaster, then permanent secretary and accounting officer for the Overseas Development Administration, who had entered a formal note of protest because of his doubts about the economic viability of the project. Some of his doubts have been borne out and the cost of the dam has risen sharply compared with estimates in 1983.

Otherwise, the point at issue is whether the support for the Pergau dam came under the right budget. The High Court ruled that the project should not have been financed under the relevant provisions of the Overseas Development and Co-operation Act. Mr Hurd has decided not to appeal against this judgment. Instead, he has proposed that the costs of the Pergau dam assistance, and three smaller projects which might fall outside the law as interpreted by the court, should now be financed separately. This year and next, funding will come from the reserve, at a cost of £65 million. That is a sensible compromise, which incidentally means more money for aid to Bosnia and other relief in the short term. It is certainly not a resigning matter.

Mr Hurd was saddled with a commitment, with possibly murky edges, made by Lady Thatcher. The court found against him not on this aspect of the deal but on the accounting point. As Michael Howard can also testify, this case shows how much secretaries of state are now constrained by the courts. The growth of a judicial review is now one of the most underappreciated aspects of the British political system.

The main lesson of the Pergau affair is that such export aid should all be out in the open and not semi-hidden under the overseas aid budget as somehow linked to aid for the poor in the Third World. Only then can the main question be answered of whether the aid for any project produces a good return in British orders and jobs. That is how Pergau should be judged.

By Peter Riddell

Turncoat Tories put faith in Blair

JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR made a final effort yesterday to woo disaffected Tory voters in Dudley West as an opinion poll showed Labour to be 55 points ahead in the run-up to tomorrow's by-election.

The Labour leader, on his second visit to the West Midlands constituency, met a group of former Tory supporters who intend to switch to Labour tomorrow. Mr Blair said that he "could not perform miracles" in changing the country's fortunes but would try to "make a start".

With a poll in the Birmingham Evening Mail putting Labour at 71 per cent, the Tories on 16 and the Liberal Democrats on 11, Labour looks certain to win comfortably. Mr Blair, however, made clear that there should be no complacency.

At the Summerhill Hotel on the outskirts of Dudley, he questioned eight Tory defectors about why they had changed their mind. Although they treated him with almost religious reverence, they were clearly disillusioned with the Tories rather than attracted by Labour policies.

Joy Round, 67, the sister of the late Joe Kinsey, who was Tory MP for Birmingham Perry Bar, said that the Tories had been in office too long. "They have become very arrogant. They are out of touch with the ordinary people."

The others cited VAT on fuel and job insecurity as reasons for switching parties. But Mr Blair looked increasingly nervous as the group spoke of a lawless society and called for tougher sentences for criminals who were being allowed to "get away with murder".

Pauline Williams, 51, a former company director, was convinced that Mr Blair would be the country's saviour. "We are hoping you are going to answer everyone's prayers for us," she said.

A slightly embarrassed Mr Blair responded: "It's a heavy responsibility. People don't expect miracles but they expect us to make a start."

□ The result at the 1992 general election: J.G. Blackburn (C) 54.2%; K.J. Lomas (Lab) 28.9%; G.P.T. Lewis (LD) 14.6% (Conservative majority: 5,789)

Clarke raises prospect of cutting duty on alcohol

By Nicholas Wood and Alice Thomson

THE Chancellor hinted at reducing the price of alcohol in the long term yesterday as he disclosed that smuggling of drink and tobacco is costing the Exchequer £65 million a year.

The shortfall is on top of the estimated £200 million of duty lost every year from "booze cruises" in which cross-Channel shoppers stock up for personal consumption.

Kenneth Clarke made clear to MPs that he had been reluctant to put up duty on wine, beer and spirits in his mini-budget last week. He was sympathetic to the problems of the drinks industry and it had not been his "preferred choice". But after

the VAT defeat he had been left with no alternative.

He held out the prospect of price cuts in the long run by underlining his commitment to a closer approximation of excise duties in the European Union in the second round of talks due to start next year.

Mr Clarke was replying to John Townend, the chairman of the backbench Tory finance committee, who warned of the threat to the drinks industry. Mr Townend said: "Inevitably, if we are going to have any success on that [approximating EU duties] at some stage the British Government is going to have to reduce our duties. We can't expect the problem will be solved just by

the other countries putting the duties up to our level."

The talks — part of the implementation of the single market — will centre on the EU's minimum levels of excise duty, which are far below those applying in the UK. For instance, the EU minimum level of duty for wine is zero compared with £140 a hectolitre in Britain.

The talks might lead to Britain lowering its duties — which could boost the sales volumes of Continental beer and wine producers — while other countries raised theirs, which would help to protect domestic producers from what they regard as unfair competition.

Think-tank refused charity status

By Jonathan Prynn
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE rivalry between two Tory European think-tanks erupted into open warfare yesterday after one of the groups had its application for charitable status turned down.

Tory Euro-sceptics could hardly contain their glee after the pro-Brussels Action Centre for Europe (ACE) was told by the Charity Commission that it would have to prove it was a non-political body before its application could be accepted.

ACE was set up this year to counter the highly effective campaigning of the Euro-sceptic European Foundation, headed by Bill Cash, the Tory MP for Stafford. Charitable status would have allowed donors to make tax-free contributions.

Mr Cash complained to the Charity Commission about the application that ACE "would be dedicated to campaigning for closer European integration". He said ACE was living in a "fool's paradise" if it thought it could convince the Commission it was not politically motivated.

Michael Welsh, chief executive of ACE, said: "I am very flattered that the European Foundation is going to such lengths to screw up our act. Perhaps that suggests we are a rather more formidable group than they're letting on."

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, questions to Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, and the Prime Minister were followed by a debate on the changes to the Budget announced by Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, last week. Mr Clarke opened for the Government and Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, responded for the Opposition. The Speaker, Betty Goodford, also made a statement on last Friday's trespass into the office of Tony Blair, the Leader of the Opposition.

In the Lords, the second day of the committee stage of the Agricultural Tenancies Bill was completed. TODAY: In the Commons, Foreign Office questions will be followed by consideration of the Raising and Value for Money orders and a debate on Common Fisheries Policy. The debate will be opened by Michael Joss, Agriculture Minister of State, and David Strang, Shadow Agriculture Minister. In the Lords, there will be debate on the preparation and passage of legislation. There will also be a debate on disbandment, initiated by the Tory peer Lord Campbell of Croy.

NOW, TAX-FREE GIVING IS EASIER THAN EVER.

There's an entirely new way of giving to charity. Charities all over the UK are now inviting you to use the CharityCard to make donations.

YOU'RE FREE TO CHOOSE.

You can give whenever you like — by phone or by post.

You can give to absolutely any charity you choose, including local schools, churches and hospitals.

The CharityCard is ideal for emergency appeals — you just quote your CharityCard number.

THE TAXMAN GIVES YOU A THIRD EXTRA.

You get a CharityCard when you pay a regular amount or a one-off sum into your own Charity Account at the Charities Aid Foundation.

CAF will reclaim the tax you've paid on the money and add it to your account.

So you have the original sum, plus a third extra to give away!

IT'S A GREAT WAY TO GIVE.

You get a CharityCard for making donations over the phone or by post.

You also receive a 'chequebook' for giving by post or in person.

And you can take out standing orders for your regular gifts.

With a CharityCard tax-free giving is easier than ever!

To find out more, call free or use the coupon provided.



CALL FREE
0800
99 33 11

Please send me more information about the CharityCard

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Please send this completed coupon to:
CharityCard, PO Box 52,
St Leonard's on Sea, East Sussex TN38 9TY.

RENEWING YOUR MOTOR INSURANCE?

EXPERIENCED DRIVERS PAY LESS

If you're aged 45 or over Landmark Express offers you exceptional motor insurance at a better price — by getting less experienced drivers off your back.

Exceptional Cover

- Up to 70% No Claims Bonus, for those who qualify*
- Transferable Company No Claims Bonus
- Automatic Windscreen and Window Cover*
- Extra reductions for low mileage, older and garaged vehicles*
- Protection of your No Claims Bonus is available as an optional extra
- Personal effects cover, including car radio and stereo equipment*

Express Claims Service

- Immediate freephone Claims Service
- 24-hour Accident Recovery Service
- Free Courtesy Car for duration of repairs
- Repairs authorised within 48 hours
- Immediate legal cover up to £20,000
- All repair costs settled by Landmark Express directly, so there are no bills for you to pay.

CALL NOW — FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTATION — guaranteed for up to 90 days.

0500 747 700

QUOTE REFERENCE NO. P585

Lines open 8am to 8pm Mon-Fri, 9am to 1pm Sat

*Details available when you ask for a quotation. This offer applies to the UK Mainland only.

LANDMARK

The Direct Insurance Division of Landmark Insurance Company Limited, PO Box 252, Northampton NN4 7QH. Registered in England No. 2890357. Registered Office: 500 Pavilion Drive, Northampton Business Park, Northampton NN4 7YJ. Member companies of American International Group, Inc. Landmark Insurance Company Limited is a member of the Association of British Insurers and the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau.

Tanzania enforces ban on hunting of stray elephants

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

TANZANIAN wildlife authorities agreed yesterday to ban the stalking of elephants that stray into areas along the border with Kenya after revelations that three semi-tame bulls from Kenya were shot, as they crossed the frontier recently, by white hunters.

Conservation sources in Kenya said yesterday that Mohidin Ndolanga, the head of Tanzania's Wildlife Department, had telephoned David Western, the director of Kenya Wildlife Services, to give an assurance that the hunting would be banned after a report of the killings appeared in *The Times* yesterday.

He also launched an investigation into why licences were issued to Northern Hunting Enterprises to shoot non-in-

igenous elephants in the Longido game control area, which runs alongside Kenya's Amboseli National Park.

"The shooting of these elephants by the hunters is simply shameful, although it was not illegal because they were of the correct size and were in Tanzanian territory," Mr Ndolanga said yesterday.

Tanzania's hunting business is under the scrutiny of a parliamentary inquiry after established professional hunters and other conservationists complained about rampant corruption in the game department which is responsible for issuing licences.

The sale of the elephant licences, each costing \$4,000 (£2,500) in Arusha, is certain to be investigated and will

embarrass the Tanzanian Wildlife Department because it violated a long-established understanding with the Nairobi authorities that animals normally resident in Kenya, where hunting is banned and poachers are shot on sight, would not be shot in Tanzania.

RBG, the only elephant that Kenyan experts have been able to identify by name, was killed two miles inside Tanzania during a hunt organised by Rick Trappe, a German Tanzanian. Two others, feared to be M10 and Sleepy, in their early fifties, like RBG, have also been shot by Mr Trappe's company, but by clients being guided by Geoff Broome, a Zimbabwean.

Mr Ndolanga refused yesterday to disclose the names or nationalities of the customers, who will have paid about £32,000 each for their 21-day safari. The clients are allowed, under international law, to keep the tusks of their elephant trophies as trophies while their carcasses will be left to scavenging animals. Under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) rules, they are not allowed to sell the tusks.

Emanuel Severre, a senior Tanzanian wildlife official, said yesterday that the issue for the authorities was not the legality of the elephant killings but the ethics. "Elephants of this size, seen in an area where they are not normally found, should have been protected, not shot. Properly game to hunt, but what game to expect in their blocks [areas] and what is unusual."

Geoffrey Wheatcroft, page 18
Leading article, page 19



Bill Bedford, left, a hunter with a client in the Dande area of northwest Tanzania, works to conserve elephant herds

Thrill lies in the chase, insists expert

BY SAM KILEY

OFTEN explained as a natural instinct derived from early man's bushman-like hunter-gatherer existence, the 20th-century hunting of animals such as elephants, lions, cheetahs and leopards, strikes many Europeans as the worst excess of misplaced male machismo.

However, Robin Hurt, one of East Africa's leading professional hunters, says: "The kill is often an anti-climax. It is the chance of the chase which counts. The danger, being out in the bush, the drama of the tracking. One does not hunt to kill, one kills to have hunted."

He has complained vigorously about a recent sharp increase in the number of professional hunters allowed to operate

in Tanzania, many of whom, he says, are not qualified. He also refuses to hunt elephants there because he does not believe there are enough to justify culling big bulls.

"There is simply no point in going into the bush and shooting an animal from the back of a car, or of shooting an endangered animal. That is neither sporting, fun, nor ecologically sustainable," he says.

His last client, a millionaire American who spends an average of £32,000 a year on three-week safaris, did not fire a shot during his latest visit. "He did not see anything that was worth it," he says. "The whole point for him, and many others, is to be in remote areas where there are no other people, and to have an adventure.

Often clients have the game in their sights, and then decide they won't shoot." Like many other white hunters and their customers, he sees himself as a conservationist. He says that by generating income from Africa's wildlife and keeping the number of visitors down he achieves environmental protection.

"By ploughing some of the revenue back into the communities who live alongside the wildlife you ensure that they see it as a resource and protect it. This is the only way that it will be possible to sustain national parks alongside exploding human populations. In addition, in areas that are hunted there are very few tourists because hunters pay so much, and therefore they don't tear up the bush with minibuses tyres."

40 held over sect killings

Avignon: French police yesterday arrested about 40 people with alleged links to the Solar Temple sect, which has been the focus of a murder investigation since the deaths in October of 53 of its members in Switzerland and Canada.

The police said they carried out raids in Brittany, the Paris area and in Carpentras region of southern France. In the Carpentras raid, police officers from Avignon and Montpellier arrested 15 people. The arrests were an outcome of a legal suit over the deaths of three members of a French family in the mass killing.

Among those held is Dr Christian-Marie Le Gall, a medical practitioner described as an associate of Luc Jouret, the sect's guru, who was among the dead. (AP)

HIV verdict

Auckland: Peter Mwal, 29, a Kenyan, faces up to 12 years in jail in New Zealand after being found guilty on charges, including endangering life, relating to having unprotected sex knowing that he was HIV-positive. (Reuters)

Pinay tribute

Paris: The French parliament observed a minute's silence for Antoine Pinay, the former Prime Minister and father of the "new franc" in 1960, who has died, aged 102. (Reuters)

Tapie move

Paris: Bernard Tapie, the French businessman and politician, said a second company of his had filed for bankruptcy to try to save his 17th-century Paris mansion from sale at auction. (AFP)

Lethal cocktail

Luanda: Police said that more than 50 people died in the Angolan capital in two weeks after they had drunk homemade "whiskey" laced with methyl alcohol, an increasingly popular tipple. (AP)

Gorilla death

Nairobi: A rare Rwandan mountain gorilla named Mkonzo was killed by a mine blast in the northwest of the country, a victim of the civil war there, the African Wildlife Foundation said. (AFP)

Ethiopia's rule of terror 'claimed 1,905 lives'

Addis Ababa: Judges charging Ethiopia's former Marxist rulers at the start of their mass trial yesterday read out a catalogue of 1,905 killings the former junta are accused of ordering during a 17-year rule of terror that included the murder of Emperor Haile Selassie (Our Foreign Staff

writes). About 66 members of the Derg military junta that seized power in the 1974 revolution are accused of genocide and crimes against humanity, although the exiled former President Mengistu is being tried in absentia.

The dictator, who fled to Zimbabwe as guerrillas closed

in on the capital three years ago, is the most wanted man on the list of accused who could face the death penalty if found guilty. The ousted dictator said in Zimbabwe that his trial in absentia would not be fair, and to go to Ethiopia to fight charges of crimes against humanity would be "suicide".

By the time court was adjourned, the Derg members had been charged with some 241 murders, including the executions of Emperor Haile Selassie and 60 of his closest ministers, and members of his aristocracy. Out of the 12 politburo members charged, only eight were in the dock.

Namibia poll results rejected

Johannesburg: What looked like an easy election victory for President Nujoma of Namibia was suddenly derailed after the announcement of results was stopped by an opposition protest over irregularities (Michael Hamlyn writes).

Mishake Muyongo, the leader of the Democratic

Turnhalle Alliance, applied yesterday for an urgent court injunction against the release of results, reserved the right not to accept them, and demanded a full investigation. According to preliminary figures, the alliance was badly beaten by the ruling South-West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo) of Mr Nujoma.

Judge Johan Strydom, chairman of the electoral commission, said more people had voted in the four northernmost constituencies than there were registered voters. "It may be innocent or it may be something irregular," he said. An inquiry would be held.

User's handbook now available.

With NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC as your guide, you'll discover planet Earth. Because every month we'll open your eyes to a new and exciting world. With outstanding photography complementing in-depth stories, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC covers a surprisingly wide range of subjects, including political and social change, archaeology, exploration, natural history, and conservation.

Become a member of the National Geographic Society today. A one-year membership, which includes the monthly magazine, costs just £21.75 - that's £5 off the newsstand price - and you'll also receive as many as five free maps throughout the year. So, complete and post the coupon, and you'll discover it's not such a small world after all.

☐ Yes, please send me 12 monthly issues of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC starting January 1995. I enclose a cheque made payable to National Geographic Society.

MY NAME (MR, MRS, MISS, MS): _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____

Please allow 6-10 weeks for your first magazine to be delivered. Post to: National Geographic Society, FREEPOST G1 306, P.O. Box 19, Guildford, Surrey GU5 5BR.

☐ I enclose £21.75 for a gift subscription:

GIFT FOR MR, MRS, MISS, MS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____

Total fee enclosed: £ _____

We will send you a special gift card to enable you to personalise your gift.

☐ NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

A Viglen Multimedia PC can be all things to all people

Multimedia is the most exciting development yet in PC technology. Combining sound, text, graphics, animation and video, it presents data in a stunning new way. And yet when you look at what's included in the price, Viglen's multimedia packages - such as the one outlined here - offer tremendous value for money.

If you see your computer as an essential tool for business, the latest Intel Pentium™ processor gives you all the power you need and more for superb performance. Plus all the upgradeability necessary to keep up with new developments. But that's nothing compared with the enjoyment the rest of your family can get from the package's multimedia capabilities, opening up a whole new world of information technology.

both for education and entertainment. One Multimedia CD, for instance, contains as much data as a small encyclopaedia, together with still photos, video clips, sound tracks, music and much more.

It makes learning fun, fascinating and fires the imagination - for young and old alike. Now isn't that a worthwhile investment for the future?

For details of our full range of PCs and for your free copy of the Viglen Direct Guide call 081 758 7000.

£1599 - VAT

£999 - VAT

For Christmas, we have a selection of special configuration Multimedia models which we can deliver within 3 days from clearance of payment. Simply, phone us for more details.

Sound BLASTER

Microsoft WINDOWS READY-TO-RUN

Intel inside pentium

Viglen

VIGLEN LIMITED, VIGLEN HOUSE, ALPERTON LANE, ALPERTON, MIDDLESEX HA4 1DX
TEL 081 758 7000 FAX 081 758 7000

Game and Viglen are trademarks of Viglen Limited. Microsoft, MS-DOS, Windows and the Microsoft Ready To Run logo are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. The Intel Inside and Pentium Processor logos are trademarks of Intel Corporation. All other trademarks are acknowledged.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND YOUR FREE COPY OF THE VIGLEN DIRECT GUIDE CALL NOW

TEL 081 758 7000

Serbs target Brcko strip as crucial objective

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

AS THE United Nations and Nato agonise about whether to leave Bosnia-Herzegovina to its own destructive devices, General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb leader, is probably planning one of the most decisive battles of the war.

The Serbs' weakest point in Bosnia is near Brcko, along the thin sliver of land that links their territory in eastern and western Bosnia. The corridor — barely a mile wide in places and 12 miles long — is sandwiched between the Croatian border and Muslim-Croat federation territory. General Mladic will be tempted to try to widen the corridor by seizing more federation land to avoid the risk of Serb territory being split in two.

His decision on whether and when to begin the battle largely depends on how the international community acts in the next few weeks. After the in-fighting between America and Europe about whether to intensify air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs, there are signs that Nato and the UN are unsure about whether to pull peacekeepers out of the former Yugoslav republic. Meanwhile, the Contact Group race is on to find a peace deal before America renews its campaign to lift the arms embargo against Bos-

nia's Muslims. If the right mix of threats and promises can be found to persuade the Bosnian Serbs to say "yes" to the peace plan, the battle around Brcko might at least be postponed. However, a long-term solution to the Serb bottleneck must still be found.

The Serbs' military strategy follows a familiar pattern: they bombard a town into submission, a ceasefire is declared, and heavy weapons are pulled back. The UN polices the truce, effectively maintaining the military status quo, and the Serbs move on to their next objective. Brcko will not be so easy for the Serbs. General Mladic uses classic Warsaw Pact tactics: bombardment from hills with heavy artillery, followed by tanks moving in with men and machineguns to consolidate their hold. But the land near Brcko is flat, and the Bosnian Government has been supplied with large quantities of anti-tank weapons since the Muslim-Croat alliance was formed earlier this year.

In what may be a significant move, the Bosnian Serbs ejected all nine UN military observers from Brcko when the world's attention was focused on Bihac, robbed them, and took them to Belgrade, the capital of Serbia.

"This is an extreme setback," a UN spokesman said in Zagreb. "This is a very important area and now we do not know what is happening." With the first snows of winter falling, the UN's inability to monitor the area will cause severe problems. A Bosnian Government source said: "Our aim is not to cut the corridor now, but to keep an eye on it until the spring."

Anthony Borden, the director of the London-based Institute for War and Peace Reporting, said: "Brcko remains the main problem for the Serbs, but they have too many stretched lines at the moment and would probably prefer to wait until the spring to widen the corridor."



Muslim chiefs set to defy arms ban

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MUSLIM leaders from 51 Islamic states yesterday hinted that they are ready to defy the international arms embargo in order to bolster fellow Muslim fighters in Bosnia.

Meeting in Casablanca for the seventh summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the leaders, who include kings, presidents and prime ministers, appeared ready to follow the lead of their foreign ministers who declared the embargo null and void and said their Governments were now ready to arm the Bosnian Muslims in their battle against the Serbs.

A resolution submitted to the summit said that the foreign ministers' preliminary meeting expressed readiness "to co-operate with all United Nations member states who exhibit a willingness on their own initiative to provide the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina with the means for self-defence."

However despite widespread criticism of Western "appeasement" of the Serbs, several influential countries

insisted they would not break ranks with the United Nations. Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister, said his country would continue to co-operate with Europe and the UN on Bosnia.

The summit also appeared ready to take the first concerted step in the Muslim world to reduce the influence of "fundamentalist" Muslim activists who have increasingly projected a hostile view of Islam to the West.

A resolution was passed by the foreign ministers on Tuesday which committed the OIC members to ensure that militant groups did not use their territory for planning operations in other states. This resolution was not opposed even by countries such as Iran, Sudan and Afghanistan which have been widely condemned in the West for supporting radical extremist groups.

The main sponsors of the motion were Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt, countries which are fighting violent campaigns by Islamic militants.



Bosnian Serb soldiers keep Muslim troop positions under observation outside the western Bosnian town of Bosanska Krupa, situated in the Bihac enclave

UN food convoy enters Sarajevo as siege blockade eased

Sarajevo: Bosnian Serb forces yesterday allowed a UN food convoy with an armoured escort to enter Sarajevo, apparently lifting a ban on peacekeepers escorting relief deliveries in armoured vehicles.

A Danish relief convoy of nine trucks drove past Serb checkpoints into the city, escorted by two French armoured personnel carriers, said Kris Janowski of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. "The Danish convoy got through with an

escort without any problems. This means there is no problem with escorts," he said. The trucks were carrying 112 tonnes of rice and flour to a UNHCR warehouse in the city centre. Danish drivers said they met no problems as they crossed Serb territory around Sarajevo.

But a Bangladeshi UN peacekeeping soldier died yesterday after being wounded when his armoured car was hit by a rocket fired by suspected rebel Serbs in the town of

Velika Kladusa, inside the Bosnian Muslim enclave of Bihac. He was one of five hurt in Monday's attack and had been evacuated to a hospital near the Croatian capital, Zagreb.

The UN condemned the attack as "one of the most flagrant, deliberate and calculated assaults" on its peacekeepers since they arrived in Bosnia more than two years ago.

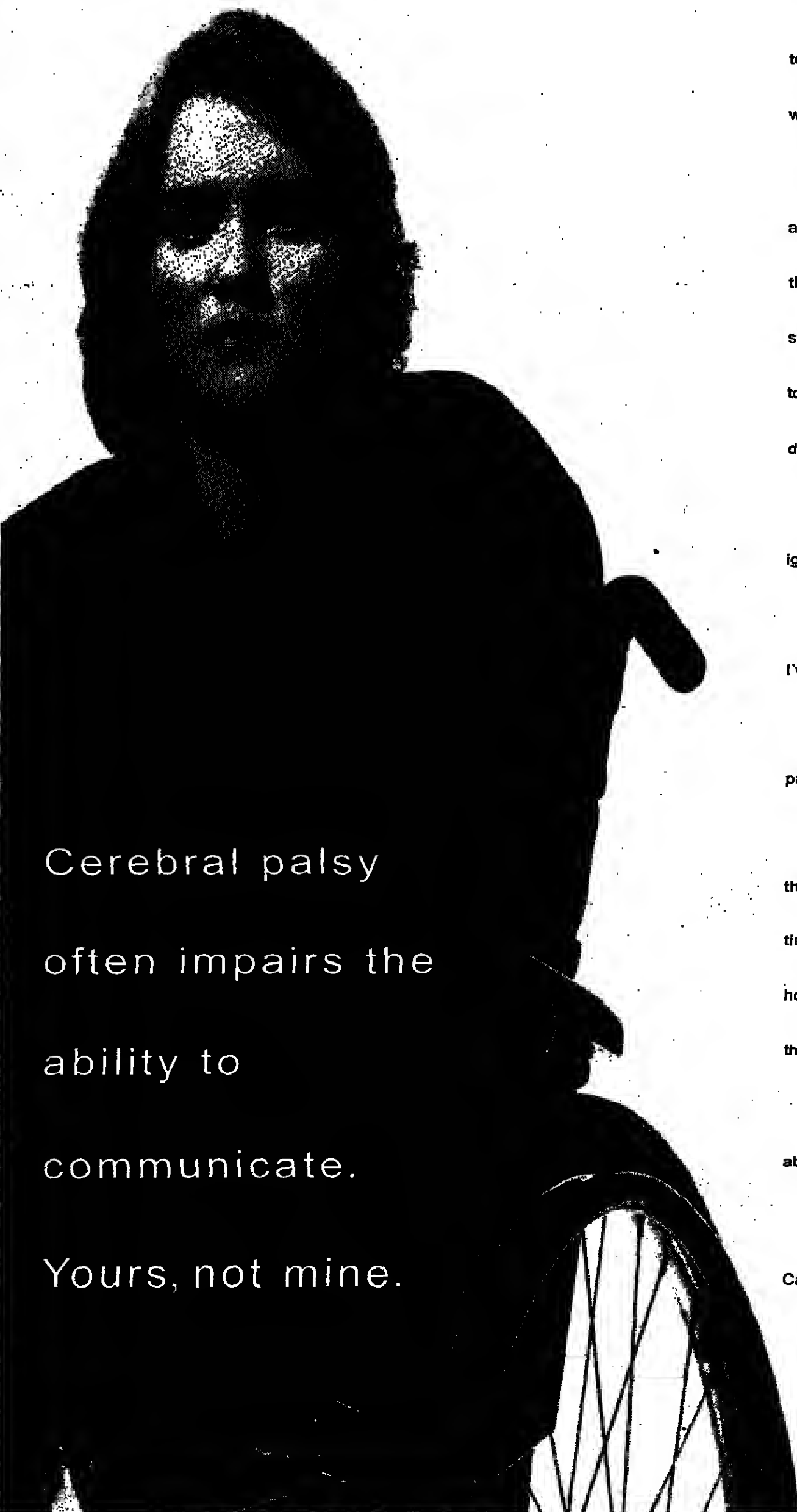
The arrival of the Sarajevo convoy was at least one sign that Bosnian Serbs were fulfilling a promise to

UN officials to grant freedom of movement to the UN Protection Force. Bosnian Serb troops besieging Sarajevo and eastern Muslim enclaves have blocked regular fuel deliveries to UN troops and detained about 500 peacekeepers in retaliation for Nato airstrikes against Serb targets last month.

One fuel convoy was allowed into Sarajevo on Monday for the first time in three weeks. The Danish food convoy arrived a day after

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the UN Commander in Bosnia, met Bosnian Serb authorities in Pale, outside Sarajevo.

The UN has been rationing fuel in Sarajevo and besieged eastern enclaves, where peacekeepers are patrolling on foot and planning to use mules as pack animals. UN commanders had to scale back peacekeeping operations and some anti-sniping patrols because of fuel shortages. (Reuters)



Cerebral palsy often impairs the ability to communicate. Yours, not mine.

I know it's difficult to understand what I say. But it would be easier if people tried.

It's the muscles in my jaw and my tongue that are affected, not my mind. That works as clearly as you're reading this.

And I don't care how many times you ask me to repeat myself. I'd rather you do that than just nod and pretend you understand. For all you know, I might have just told you that you've got a face like a bull-dog sucking a wasp. Not that I would.

The worst thing is when people just ignore me and look the other way.

Schools, employers, local authorities, I've been ignored by them all.

And like everyone else with cerebral palsy, I'm tired of it.

So are the Spastics Society. That's why they changed to Scope. Because it's about time that everyone with cerebral palsy, however severely disabled, was allowed the scope to live normally.

Which means not having our rights and abilities ignored.

Scope are as keen to talk to you as I am.

Call them, local rate, on 0645 486 487.

SCOPE
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY
Formerly The Spastics Society

LOW COST CAR INSURANCE

£1000 **SAVE £££ GET MORE**

IF YOU ARE OVER 28" PHONE US FREE FOR AN INSTANT QUOTE STATING REF: 8142

0800 850 750

OPENING TIMES: 8.30am until 8.30pm Weekdays; 8.30am until 4.30pm Saturdays; 10am until 1pm Sundays.

Pd

PREFERRED DIRECT INSURANCE

WE'RE PREFERRED BECAUSE WE'RE BETTER

A Friendly Preferred group company. Preferred Direct Insurance does not extend to Northern Ireland or the Channel Islands. *Insurance and acceptance subject to underwriting.

Y DECEMBER 14
NEWS IN BRIEF
40 held over sex killings
HIV verdict
Pinay tribute
Tapie move
Lethal cock
Gorilla deal
PC people

Dudayev's raggle-taggle army musters to beat back the might of Russia



FROM ANATOL LIEVEN
IN PERVOMAIKSKOYE

TEN miles north of Grozny, the Chechen capital, lies the village of Pervomaikskoye, the scene yesterday of a fierce rocket attack by Russian jets and helicopter gunships. The village, located directly on the Chechen border line, is an old Cossack settlement, though most of the Russian population left in the past three years under Chechen pressure. The remainder expressed furious bitterness both against President Yeltsin and the Chechen leader, General Dzhokhar Dudayev.

will not stand his ground to the death."

The number of regular Dudayev regime forces is tiny. Most estimates number them at barely more than 1,000. Yesterday morning, these small groups of Chechen defenders seemed almost lost in the sea of white tanks covering Chechnya and confusing the Russian invaders.

The regular forces are supplemented by considerable numbers of "people's volunteers", like most of Colonel Dolgoy's men. Most Chechen men have some type of gun. At Pervomaikskoye, they came in all shapes and sizes and all kinds of dress, from weather-beaten local peasants to smooth-faced Chechen "businessmen" from Russia.

One such businessman, Salau Adigov, said that he had come back two months ago to fight for Chechnya, and had bought his own Kalashnikov rifle, pistol and grenades in Grozny's large arms bazaar.

The volunteer units are usually formed from the same area and choose their commanders from people with local prestige or military experience. Some, like Colonel Dolgoy, are former Soviet junior officers or NCOs.

Apart from the volunteers, there are a few Chechen regular units, though the number of troops is far smaller than the grand title of "regiments" and "battalions" would suggest. Military discipline is also largely absent and comes and goes as easily as the people's volunteers. These units include Omom, a former Soviet special police, a "mountain

infantry regiment", and an armoured regiment, with a handful of heavy tanks, and "Spetsnaz" or commando battalions.

But the Chechens like to add some personal bits of display like the Homeric heroes of antiquity whom they resemble in their courage, their boasting, their indiscipline, their touches of chivalry and bursts of savagery.

The deputy commander of the Spetsnaz is Captain Omar Chafakonov, an immense bearded figure. Many of his men wear a green band over their woolly hats: the Chechen Muslim tradition indicating that they are determined to fight to the death for Islam. The tradition goes back to the Chechen wars against Russia in the 19th century.

Finally, there is the presidential guard, the best armed

Chechnya conflict holds key to fate of Moscow leaders

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

AS BATTLES between Russian troops and Chechen fighters intensified in the northern Caucasus yesterday a fierce confrontation was developing between Russian politicians in Moscow that could decide the country's leadership.

In only three days, since Russian troops were ordered into Chechnya, the Russian political landscape has been redrawn with old alliances broken up and new pacts being formed. It is now widely accepted in Russian political circles that President Yeltsin's decision to use force to reimpose the Kremlin's rule in the breakaway state was the biggest gamble of his three-year administration and could decide who will lead the country into the next century.

Put crudely, if the Russian military succeeds in ousting the rebel Chechen leadership of General Dzhokhar Dudayev, or at least intimidating him into submission, the Russian leader's prestige will be fully restored. If the operation goes badly and his soldiers spark a bloody conflict, he may never recover.

Yesterday the Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, voted overwhelmingly in favour of a resolution accusing the Government of failing to reach a political

settlement to the Chechen conflict and urging the Kremlin to do everything in its power to halt the fighting.

The most damaging political repercussion for the Russian leader so far has been the harshly critical line taken by his traditional supporters in the democratic bloc and in particular, the stinging personal attack by his former Prime Minister, Yegor Gaidar.

The former reform chief, who heads the Democratic Choice of Russia party, has called the military operation "controlled bloodletting" and even suggested that the action was taken to help to improve the military's image and secure the army a bigger slice of next year's budget.

Mr Gaidar had stood by the President loyally for the past three years, when the political debate in Russia was dominated by the question of economic and political reform. Now, however, with the central question of national security and nationalism at stake, he has parted company with President Yeltsin.

His campaign has attracted a number of supporters, from Grigori Yavlinsky, the leader of the liberal Yabloko party, to Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader and even

Gennadi Zjuganov, the Communist party boss, all of them hopefuls in the presidential race.

"This all strongly reminds me of the October events," said Mr Zjuganov, recalling last year's bloody attack on the White House in Moscow when Russian troops put down an uprising by parliament. "The difference is that in October they sealed off parliament and then shelled it, while this time they repeat the scheme with the whole republic."

Emil Pain, a member of the Presidential Council, warned yesterday that the political impact of the Chechen crisis could reignite the feud between the Kremlin and parliament.

"We are moving towards confrontation between a large number of deputies on one side and the executive branch of power on the other," he said. "The consequences may be really grave, namely another round of conflict which threatens to result in the disintegration of Russia."

However, some Russian political leaders have hedged their positions over the Chechen conflict. Boris Fyodorov, the liberal former Finance Minister, has backed the incursion but criticised the



Chechen soldiers armed with anti-tank grenade launchers heading for the Grozny front line yesterday as Russian troops advanced.

military competence of General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister.

Surprisingly the ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who heads the Liberal Democratic party and never shies away from defending Russia's right to its imperial

land, has given only muted support to the military operation. He has doubtless calculated that if the mission backfires, he will still be able to make some political capital from it.

The Chechen conflict is also likely to decide the fate of some

key figures in the Russian Government, particularly General Grachev, the loyal Yeltsin defence chief who has been accused of running a corrupt and incompetent armed forces. If the attack goes wrong, his political career will almost certainly be

over. Also, the crisis has finally established the "real stand of Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, once regarded by the West as a sympathetic pro-democrat. Now, in the space of only a few months, he has transformed himself into a tough national-

ist who supports the Serbs, Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, and who opposes Nato's expansion.

"If there is no disarmament in Chechnya, the Russian state will be obliged to use as much force as is required to establish order," said the former liberal.

Romania moves to placate workers

FROM REUTER IN BUCHAREST

ROMANIAN oil industry workers said yesterday that they would stage a lightning two-hour warning strike tomorrow in protest at new wage control laws.

The Petrom trade union, claiming more than 100,000 members in the oil extraction industry, said in a statement that it was opening a "collective labour conflict" with the minority left-wing Government of Nicolae Vacaroiu, the Prime Minister.

He flew to western Romania yesterday to intervene in mass protests by disgruntled workers five years after the end of communism.

In a terse statement, the Government said that Mr Vacaroiu and his Industry Minister had flown to Resita for talks with unions and

managers of the town's steel mill and heavy machinery plant on how to "redress the economic situation".

Thousands of workers have been on their streets for more than a week protesting over unpaid wages and the economic malaise in Romania since the 1989 revolution toppled the dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, who conceived industrial towns such as Resita.

While there is no suggestion that the Resita protests will spiral into the size of the demonstrations that sparked the 1989 revolution, the Government wants to avoid a repeat of riots by miners that brought down the first democratically elected administration in 1990. Labour unrest shows some evidence of spreading from the town.

Nordic chiefs face fierce grilling on Europe

FROM GEORGE BROCK
IN BRUSSELS

John Major, like most Prime Ministers, has discovered that European Union summits are more relaxing than answering questions from bobbing backbenchers in the Commons.

As he reported to MPs about the Essen summit on Monday, the shock of leaving the consensual Christmas-party atmosphere created by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and re-entering the lions' den at Westminster was patent.

"Prime Ministers elsewhere, they don't find themselves subject to the same rigorous questioning in their parliaments as we do," he said. "Indeed, ... some of my fellow heads of government could scarcely find their way to their national parliaments with a guide dog." This democratic superiority has been a private and public refrain of British



Gonzalez: lofty disdain for Cortes questions

ministers for the past two or three years. Mr Major and his colleagues have chuckled at the spectacle of continental governments squirming to jus-

tify the tortured phrasing of the Maastricht treaty, negotiated in secret and with precious little debate at the time in most EU countries.

But the Prime Minister's lofty jibe is only half true. From next month, when Sweden, Finland and Austria join, the EU will include at least three parliaments whose scrutiny of what ministers get up to in Brussels is tougher than anything seen in London.

Mr Major's most likely target was Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish Prime Minister. Senior Gonzalez did indeed acquire a reputation for largely ignoring the Cortes until he was forced by public pressure to start a version of question time every Wednesday afternoon. Since most of the questions concern corruption, however, he tends to dismiss them as impertinent.

Even where ministers do face regular questioning in parliament, in Germany or

the Benelux states, the style is less rigorous because their constitutions work differently. Each of these countries elects MPs by proportional representation, producing chambers split more or less as the electorate has voted. That in turn generates coalitions whose balance and breadth discourage hostile cross-examination. The powers that be include almost everybody who matters.

Belgium is ruled by a four-party Cabinet that includes ministers from the Christian Democrat and Socialist parties and is drawn from the French and Flemish-speaking areas. The last topic on which a Belgian Prime Minister expects hostile questions is Europe: faith in a federal Europe is a public religion. The political classes in Belgium and Luxembourg have stayed solidly behind the dream of a united Europe.

Belgian Euro-sceptics remain as rare as nudists at the North Pole.

However, European government systems can still allow public feelings to be expressed with force. The toughest system of accountability on European policy anywhere in the EU is run by the Danish parliament. The power to negotiate in Brussels is effectively shared between the "market committee" of MPs and the ministers who attend councils in Brussels. The committee lays down the freedom of manoeuvre that each minister may have at each meeting before setting off from Copenhagen.

Sweden and Finland bring with them similar oversight rules. Public inspection of politicians' conduct in Scandinavia goes much further than in Britain: Swedish voters even have the right to inspect their Prime Minister's correspondence.

Couture's secret death

FROM CHARLES BRENNER
IN PARIS

IN SOMETHING of a record even for reclusive celebrities, it has been disclosed that Mme Grès, the legendary Paris couturière and Coco Chanel's former rival, died last year, aged 90.

Anne Grès, the couturière's daughter, had suppressed the news of her death in a Riviera nursing home. In a bitter statement yesterday, she explained that she had acted out of love to protect her mother because she had been abandoned and betrayed by the elite of the fashion world.

She also had no money to pay for a grave, she added. "Mummy departed in silence, as she had always lived ... one day she decided to die and refused to eat."

Obituary, page 21

Where can you get your **PAUSE** on a 3hr Philips video tape for only 99p?

FAST FWD»

to **Esso**

3 hour Philips video tape for 99p with every £12 of fuel purchased while stocks last at participating Service Stations.

هكذا من الأصل

Clinton to finance tax cuts by attack on bureaucracy

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WITH a new poll showing that his approval rating has slumped to 38 per cent, President Clinton will seek to revive his presidency tomorrow with an Oval Office address to the nation promising middle-class tax cuts financed in part by wholesale reductions in the federal bureaucracy.

In a measure of Mr Clinton's diminished stature, however, the four big television networks were uncertain yesterday whether they would broadcast the speech. Some commentators were comparing it to Jimmy Carter's ill fated attempt to salvage his presidency with his famous 1979 address blaming his political misfortunes on the nation's spiritual malaise.

In 1992 Mr Clinton secured one of the biggest tax increases in American history as he battled to reduce the federal deficit. But since his party's rout in last month's congressional elections he has moved rapidly back to the political centre and jumped firmly on to the tax-cutting bandwagon, even though the booming economy needs no extra stimulus.

The Republicans have promised to seek a \$500-a-week (\$320) tax cut for families with incomes of up to \$200,000 after they take control of Congress next month, a step that would cost an estimated \$110 billion over five years. Richard Gephardt, the Democrats' House leader, proposed cuts yesterday for families earning less than \$75,000, and in doing so

signalled that congressional Democrats now plan to operate independently of their President.

Mr Clinton cannot offer tax cuts nearly as big as the Republicans' without undermining his own deficit-reduction achievements, but instead is expected to target his cuts on "average working families" with incomes below \$100,000 while attacking the Republican proposals as more tax breaks for the rich.

The President has cleared his schedule for the week so that he can focus on ways to finance cuts that are expected to cost about \$30 billion over the next five years. Social programmes such as Medicare will probably be pared back, but Mr Clinton is also contemplating the radical restructuring, or abolition, of either the Energy or Housing departments and across-the-board reductions throughout the Government.

In the meantime, the national Democratic Party is facing a financial crisis, with a total post-election debt of about \$5 million. While money is pouring into the Republican coffers, contributions to the Democrats have dried up. Richard Dennis, a wealthy Chicagoan who has given the Democrats more than \$1 million over the past five years, said that he and other big Democratic fund-raisers wanted Mr Clinton off the ticket in 1996.

Paul Tsongas, the former Democrat Senator who challenged Mr Clinton for the 1992 presidential nomination, cal-

led yesterday for the creation of a socially inclusive, fiscally conservative third party led by a man with moral authority such as Colin Powell, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In a separate development, Senate Republicans unveiled a plan to revise drastically and reduce America's foreign aid programmes. Mitch McConnell, the Senator who will chair the Foreign Appropriations Sub-committee, wants to make further assistance to Russia conditional on Moscow's non-interference with its neighbours, to target foreign aid on areas of the Middle East and Europe where America has direct interests, and slash aid to Africa that "subsidises failure".

He would abolish the Agency for International Development, give the State Department control of the independent Peace Corps and end American support for international population-control programmes. The total aid budget of \$13.7 billion would shrink. Jesse Helms, next chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has said that one of his priorities will be to stop taxpayers' dollars being poured down "foreign rat-holes". □ Convention city: San Diego, California, was nominated yesterday as the site for the Republican presidential nominating convention in 1996. If the selection is confirmed in January, it will be the first time the city has been host to either party's national convention. (Reuters)

President gains Castro's support

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

HIS popularity at home may have plummeted to an all-time low but President Clinton yesterday received support from a strange ally—Fidel Castro, the *bête noire* of American presidents.

In a rare interview with a US newspaper, the Cuban leader asked how it was that the American public had delivered such a resounding defeat to their President last month. Mr Clinton, he said, appeared to have such an attractive social agenda when he was elected, but now the Republicans had returned, with their traditional antagonism towards his country.

"The Chinese wanted Bush to win, the Russians wanted Bush to win. The Mexicans wanted Bush to win," Mr Castro told *The New York Times*. "But we hope he [Mr Clinton] is successful."

Dr Castro appeared to have forgotten that even as a candidate, Bill Clinton was a firm proponent of tightening the long-standing trade embargo against Cuba. This summer the American leader had imposed further sanctions against the Caribbean nation as a reprisal for the 30,000 refugees Dr Castro allowed to flood the Florida Straits.

The Summit of the Americas had just ended in Miami when Dr Castro, the only leader not invited, gave his views during a four-hour conversation at a long dining table in the Palace of the Revolution in Havana. "If the summit of Miami was a great show, it would have been a better show if I had been there," he said. "We are the last rebels."



Sophia Loren, 60, arriving at the world premiere of *Prêt-à-Porter* in New York. The film, by Robert Altman, takes a satirical look at the fashion industry, with some of Hollywood's most famous actors starring alongside genuine designers

Tax team questions premier

Milan: Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian Prime Minister, yesterday faced nearly eight hours of grueling interrogation by Milan magistrates, "with head held high and sure of myself", about allegations that he had bribed tax inspectors (John Phillips writes).

He was then questioned at length by the Milan Chief Prosecutor, Francesco Saverio Borrelli, and two veteran prosecutors of the "Clean Hands" team. The Prime Minister, accompanied by his lawyers, Giuseppe De Luca and Ennio Amodio, reiterated his protestation of innocence before he met the judges. He said that he would tell the magistrates "several very simple and clear things. I have never corrupted anyone, never and under no circumstances."

Rocard 'no' to presidency

Paris: Michel Rocard, the former French Prime Minister and a long-standing rival to President Mitterrand, yesterday ruled himself out as a possible replacement for Jacques Delors, formerly the Socialist front-runner who has now said that he will not stand for the presidency (Charles Brenner writes).

A moderate Socialist in the Delors mould, M Rocard enjoys public support second only to that of Jack Lang, the former Culture Minister, according to a poll after the withdrawal of M Delors, the outgoing President of the European Commission.

"I have already done my bit... I don't have the qualities to fit the standard profile of the Socialist Party candidate," M Rocard said.

Three-day lift ordeal

Auckland: Embarrassed Auckland authorities have begun an investigation into how a 69-year-old woman became trapped in a car-park lift for three days. Through all the 67 hours Moira Poor's for help went unanswered. She was without food, water or warm clothing but, on top of that, once she was freed she had to pay a penalty to get her car out because the attendants would not believe that she had been trapped. As she recovered at home, Les Mills, the mayor of the New Zealand city, told television that his council, owners of the building, was clearly in the wrong. (AFP)

Gingrich squares up to Mayor Barry

BY TOM RHODES

FEW battles are more likely to stir the imagination of the American political class than the predicted clash over Washington DC between Newt Gingrich, the current arbiter of Republican morality, and Marion Barry, the incoming mayor, who was once jailed for cocaine abuse.

In a bizarre scheme to save the capital from bankruptcy, Mr Barry has led a "senior delegation" to the finance houses of Wall Street to ask for \$250 million (£160 million) to be pumped into the city, which has a budget deficit more than twice that.

At the same time Mr Gingrich, the new Republican Speaker, describing Washington as "a collapsing and extraordinarily self-destructive city", has said that Congress must take charge or, failing that, the District of Columbia should be given to the state of Maryland. He proposes that a panel of residents be set up to advise Congress on how to use federal funds to make Washington "one of the real urban jewels of the planet".

There is little doubt that Republicans are still distressed that their arguments

against loose morals and the counterculture failed to prevent the electorate in the capital from again choosing Mr Barry as mayor. Mr Gingrich said the troubled local government in Washington was one of the greatest problems facing Congress which, he emphasised, controlled federal payments to the city and maintained the right to veto its legislation.

"It needs to be faced honestly, but it needs to be faced honestly by the people of this city," he said. "It doesn't do us any good to pick a fight with the new mayor or to avoid a fight with the new mayor. What we need to do is find a way to break out of this struggle."

The financiers of Wall Street remain sceptical about the austerity programme promoted by Mr Barry and have demanded further cuts in spending if they are to service such a large loan for his next term in office. If the brokers fail to offer a solution, political observers say, Mr Gingrich is likely to increase his pressure on the perceived nemesis who will control the very streets his congressional majority walks on.

US plan to hit China revealed

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

AMERICA planned to drop atomic bombs on China if Peking broke the uneasy truce that ended the Korean War in 1953, according to newly-declassified Pentagon documents.

"In light of the enemy capability to launch a massive ground offensive, US air support operations, including use of atomic weapons, will be employed to inflict maximum destruction of enemy forces," said a secret memorandum signed by General Edwin Cams, secretary to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on April 17, 1954.

The plan "does not contemplate a massive atomic strike against Communist territory and its population", the document said. "Rather, it is intended that conventional as well as atomic weapons, as appropriate, will be employed against military targets in Manchuria and China, which are being used by the Communists in direct support of their operations in Korea."

The document, of which only 30 copies were made, was one of 44 million declassified by President Clinton.

Japan suicides highlight school bullying

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

A SECOND Japanese schoolboy killed himself yesterday in a town next to the one where a pupil hanged himself last month after repeated intimidation and harassment by classmates.

News of the second suicide, also blamed on bullying, came as the Japanese Government released a report giving a warning that violent intimidation and extortion among schoolchildren had reached an "all-time high".

The 13-year-old boy, who has not been named, was found hanging in his father's car in the central Japanese town of Okazaki. Police said no note was left and no motive had been identified. However, classmates said that he had been consistently harassed by three older

pupils over the last four months. The Education Ministry said yesterday that the earlier suicide of Kiyotaru Okouchi, also 13, of Nishio, on November 27, was "only the tip of the iceberg" of increasingly violent bullying spreading through schools.

Bullying among female and male pupils is regarded as a common syndrome in Japan and has even featured as a theme in television dramas. However, the wide attention drawn to the suicide of Kiyotaru and his poignant suicide note has sparked off a national uproar. "I don't want to die this early in life, but these days they bully me so much and demand so much money that I just can't stand it anymore," the boy wrote in a four-page letter.

After publication of the note, it was revealed that a boy from Iyotaru's school

had hanged himself in 1988, probably because of bullying. In the past week, many other cases have been reported in the Japanese press.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, a leading daily newspaper, reported a dramatic rise in suicides among pupils in state schools; 177 have been reported so far this year by the Education Ministry, up from 131 in 1993.

The growing controversy over school violence has prompted Tomiichi Murayama, the Prime Minister, to call for a national inquiry. He convened an extraordinary Cabinet meeting yesterday to discuss the issue and urged teachers and parents to join forces to check bullying in schools. An Education Ministry report also urged teachers to pay more attention to the problems of stress and competitive pressure on pupils in Japan's rigid education system.

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Business Customers

BUSINESS OVERDRAFTS

Band	Monthly Rate	Eqv. Annual Rate
A†	0.94%	11.28%
B	0.86%	10.32%
C	0.77%	9.24%
Unauthorised	2.00%	24.00%

BUSINESS SAVINGS

PREMIER INTEREST ACCOUNT†	GROSS RATE %	GROSS CAR %
£250,000+	5.25	5.38
£100,000+	5.00	5.12
£ 25,000+	4.40	4.49
£ 10,000+	4.10	4.18

BUSINESS LOANS

Band	Monthly Rate	Eqv. Annual Rate
Standard**	0.98%	11.76%
Preferential**	0.81%	9.72%
Small Business Loan Standard	1.08%	12.96% (APR 13.7%)*
Small Business Loan***	0.98%	11.76% (APR 12.4%)*

BUSINESS MORTGAGES

Band	Monthly Rate	Eqv. Annual Rate
A	0.98%	11.76%
B and C	0.81%	9.72%

BUSINESS CALL ACCOUNT	GROSS RATE %	GROSS CAR %
£250,000+	3.85	3.92
£ 50,000+	3.55	3.61
£ 10,000+	3.35	3.40
£ 1,000+	3.05	3.09
Below £1,000	1.25	1.26

CLIENTS CALL ACCOUNT	HALF YEARLY OPTION		MONTHLY OPTION	
	GROSS RATE %	GROSS CAR %	GROSS RATE %	GROSS CAR %
£1,000,000+	4.35	4.40	4.31	4.40
£ 100,000+	4.15	4.19	4.11	4.19
£ 10,000+	3.65	3.68	3.62	3.68
£ 2,500+	3.35	3.38	3.33	3.38
Below £2,500	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	HALF YEARLY OPTION		MONTHLY OPTION	
	GROSS RATE %	GROSS CAR %	GROSS RATE %	GROSS CAR %
£1+	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25

†Standard and A Bands have been merged.

*The APR does not take into account any additional charges (eg arrangement fees/securities charges/monthly fees) which may be applicable.

Also applies to Farm Business Loans. *Also applies to Farm Small Business Loans.

Interest rates may vary from time to time. This notice lists current rates.

GROSS RATE - the annual interest rate.

GROSS CAR - compounded annual rate when full monthly or half-yearly interest remains invested. Business Call Account and Premier Interest Account assume interest paid monthly.

††No interest is paid on balances below £10,000.

These rates of interest will apply with effect from 14 December 1994



THE THOROUGHbred BANK.

Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS

A NEW
SUNNY
FROM £7,499



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0345 800 600

*FINANCE OFFERED BY NISSAN FINANCE. FINANCE OFFERED BY NISSAN FINANCE. FINANCE OFFERED BY NISSAN FINANCE.

Martin Fletcher on Washington's struggle to swim with the tide of Republican revolution

For 22 years, newly elected congressmen have travelled up to Harvard's Kennedy School of Government for an introductory course on policy-making. This year America's most famous university had to cancel the course for lack of interest. Instead, in a vivid demonstration of how Washington's political culture has been turned inside out by the Republicans' capture of Congress, the 73 new Republicans flocked to Baltimore last weekend for a rival course organised by the conservative Heritage Foundation.

To coin Ross Perot's memorable phrase, the "giant sucking sound" we denizens of Washington have been hearing this last month is of raw power departing the White House for its new home on Capitol Hill. Its passage has left a capital city that is scarcely recognisable. What was in is now out, and what was out is now in.

Can it really be only two years since liberal Harvard sent more than a dozen students to serve in the Clinton Administration, and the Progressive Policy Institute, founded by Bill Clinton's Democratic Leadership Council, was the think-tank du jour? Today it is the Heritage Foundation that is proclaiming itself the Republican revolution's "weapons factory". And it was to the Heritage Foundation that Newt Gingrich delivered his first major speech after becoming America's predominant politician on November 8.

On the night of President Clinton's 1992 inauguration, the hottest ticket in town was for the ball thrown by MTV. Today's most fashionable station — featuring *The Progress Report* with Newt Gingrich and Arianna Stassinopoulou as a chat-show host — is National Empowerment Television, the year-old

Dancing on the liberal grave



"Having lost the House and Senate, Democrats retreat to their last stronghold." A current American cartoon

cable creation of the arch-conservative Paul Weyrich.

Rush Limbaugh, the radio scourge of the Clintons, has suddenly found himself a quasi-official spokesman for the ruling party. The ultra-conservative *Washington Times* and *Wall Street Journal* are fast becoming the establishment newspapers, the liberal *Washington Post* and *New York Times* the official opposition.

James Carville, George Stephanopoulos and all the other young masterminds of Mr Clinton's election victory have briefly flamed and

flickered out. Today's strategists to watch are Bill Kristol, the former Quayle adviser, Frank Luntz, the 32-year-old Oxford-educated consultant who helped Mr Gingrich to devise "Contract with America", and a little-known management consultant named Morris Shechtman whom Mr Gingrich has engaged to sell his revolution.

Mr Shechtman's speciality is changing corporate cultures, and he hopes to do the same for America's political culture. His trick is finding more gentle language to explain right-wing goals. Positive discrimination

"has created a world in which you can sue to get a job with someone who considers you a turkey", he says. The welfare state is "the most virulent form of racism" and has created "a class of slaves". All social intervention does is "make the interverner feel better".

Charles Murray, the social scientist damned in October for suggesting blacks were genetically less intelligent than whites, is back in favour. So is Edward Teller, the father of the atom bomb and leading "Star

Wars" advocate. So is the futurist Alvin Toffler, whose book, *Creating a New Civilization: The Politics of the Third Wave*, heads Mr Gingrich's reading list for the new Congress.

Political correctness, particularly racial and sexual diversity, is yesterday's fad. The new congressional leadership is composed almost exclusively of Protestant pale males. Only one Senate and one House committee will have women chairing them. There is scarcely a black or homosexual in sight. One of Mr Gingrich's first acts as Speaker will be to end funding for 28 caucuses, including those for black, female and Hispanic congressmen.

The South is most definitely in, and for once the president from Arkansas is not out of step. Vice-President Al Gore is from Tennessee. Mr Gingrich is from Georgia and his deputy leader, Richard Armitage, is a Texan. The Senate's new deputy leader, Trent Lott, comes from Mississippi, leaving Robert Dole of Kansas, the Senate leader, the odd man out.

Southern Republicans have had to use aggressive tactics to establish their beachhead in a region once solidly Democratic, and it shows. Traditional courtliness is out, invective in. Mr Gingrich has described the Clintons as "enemies of the people" and claimed the White House was rife with drug abusers.

Free condoms for schools are out, school prayer in, crime prevention has been replaced by detention, and dismantling — not "reventing" — government is the order of the day. Hollywood's oh-so-socially-concerned Barbara Streisand is also now passé. The Republicans' new pin-up is Mickey Rooney, star of *Boys Town*, the 1938 movie that Mr Gingrich invokes to bolster his case for bringing back orphanages.

How powerful is hypnotism?

Public concern has forced the Home Office to investigate a stage act

Ever since the Austrian physician Anton Mesmer began inducing trance-like states in his patients in the 18th century, argument has raged over the nature of the phenomenon.

Is the hypnotic subject really in a different state of consciousness, or merely playing an elaborate role? By now, we might have hoped to know the answer, but we do not. It is, says Dr Michael Heap of Sheffield University, "the biggest argument in hypnotism".

Dr Heap is the country's only lecturer in clinical hypnotism, and might be expected to welcome any move to make the subject more respectable by clamping down on stage hypnotists.

"Stage hypnotism trivialises the subject," he says. "I don't like it at all. But I am not very impressed by the evidence that it is dangerous — that's been overstated. The people who say that it is, want it outlawed, and I see no justification for that."

The decision by the Home Office to take a fresh look at stage hypnotism follows a campaign led by the mother of a woman who died hours after being hypnotised. Dr Prem Misra, the Glasgow consultant psychiatrist and chairman of the academic committee of the British Society of Mental and Dental Hypnotists, backs the campaign.

He says that stage hypnotism can do lasting emotional and physical damage, and has provided the Scottish Office with evidence based on 18 years' experience of treating victims. "Banning stage hypnotism is up to Parliament," he says, "but, meanwhile, local authorities could impose much tighter guidelines to protect the public."

Dr Misra says the symptoms include headaches, drowsiness, nausea, lack of energy, irritability, loss of persistence of hypnotic suggestions, spontaneous trances, anxiety, depression, and in some cases full-blown psychosis. One man, for example, became obsessed with eating onions after going on stage and being persuaded that they were Golden Delicious apples — a favourite trick of stage hypnotists. He was eating six to eight raw onions a day and took months to shake off the habit.

The weakness in the argument is that it is impossible to link the symptoms directly to the hypnotism. Dr Heap saw one woman who complained of migraines after being hypnotised. "It turned out that it had happened at an office

party, which went on until dawn and where everybody had had a lot to drink. It's impossible to prove that the hypnotism was really the cause."

The same applies to the women whose death triggered the campaign against stage hypnotism, Sharon Taborn. In the Commons, Michael Forsyth, the junior Home Office Minister, said that the coroner had found her death to be due to natural causes unconnected with her having been hypnotised. But her mother, Margaret Harper, who founded the Campaign against Stage Hypnotism, disagrees. "My daughter died after being hypnotised and we will carry on striving for a total ban on stage hypnotism," she said yesterday.

Stage hypnotism is a much more intense experience than medical hypnotism. "The stage hypnotist can select his subjects, and there is also the massive effect of audience expectation, and the influence of the group on the stage," Dr Heap says. He is persuaded by the evidence of Graham Wagstaff, a Liverpool University psychologist, showing that the effects in these cases depend greatly on people's willingness to satisfy expectations.

This brings us back to the central, unanswered question in hypnotism. On one side are the "state" theorists, who say that the hypnotic state is distinct from other forms of consciousness; on the other, the "non-state" theorists, such as Dr Wagstaff, who say that it depends on the co-operation of the subjects, who sustain the illusion by "acting in ways they have learnt by watching others being hypnotised."

Electrical measurements of the brain have been made to try to distinguish between these theories, but the results are open to different interpretation. For most people, Dr Heap says, the hypnotic state is a particularly profound, but not relaxing and liberating, state. He believes that it is useful for treating conditions that are at least partly psychosomatic, such as asthma, insomnia, irritable bowel syndrome, and some forms of persistent pain.

But real understanding is as elusive as it was to the French Royal Commission who examined Mesmer's claims, and found them wanting. Whatever his skills, they evidently did not stretch to mesmerising the members of the commission. If today's stage hypnotists are to avoid the heavy hand of the law, they will have to do better than that.



NIGEL HAWKES

Letters that spell a life of debauchery

Valerie Grove hears the tale behind the story of Madame du Deffand, French socialite and correspondent

Two women sit in a small salon in a hotel not far from Knightsbridge, reflecting on the kind of life women once lived: Lady Teresa Waugh, novelist and wife of Auberon, and Benedetta Craveri, wife of the French ambassador in Prague. What links them is that Benedetta has written, and Teresa has translated, a fascinating life of one of the most extraordinary 18th-century *salonnieres*, Madame du Deffand.

In the days when women of her kind had nothing whatever to do but receive guests and engineer brilliant conversations, Madame du Deffand flourished.

Deffand saw her marquis husband for the first time on their wedding day, and at once flung herself into a life of debauchery that shocked even the beau monde, becoming the mistress of the Regent and having accepted a pension from him, proceeding to ever more scandalous intrigues. "I think if she had lived today she would have been a junkie," says Teresa.

"She was so high-spirited, she would do anything to be daring and defiant."

But Sainte Beuve considered her one of the finest exponents of classical French prose, and

her correspondence with a series of men from Voltaire to Horace Walpole, with whom she fell passionately and obsessively in love, is full of biting wit and observation despite the fact that she was by then totally blind.

She would sit like a waxwork in her hooded chair, pale and tiny, her large and once beautiful eyes wide open, stroking her angora cats and noisy little dogs; she would

recognise the faces of guests by running a finger over them. Walpole was captivated by this "old blind débauchée of wit". "She goes to operas, plays, and Versailles: she gives suppers twice a week; she makes new songs and epigrams... she dictates charming letters to Voltaire... she is all love and hatred, still anxious to be loved..."

Yet ennui beset her. "I have to say," says Teresa, "that I became quite irritated with Madame du Deffand over her ennui."

"It's depression, really. She wallowed in it. I feel less sympathetic to her than Benedetta because she reminds me of my mother, who was also an intelligent woman who didn't do anything to use her intelligence to the full. And

you feel that if you could only get her to make a little effort to look outward instead of navel-gazing she would find some happiness."

Benedetta and Teresa met 20 years ago through Teresa's sister-in-law, Evelyn Waugh's daughter the late Margaret FitzHerbert (author of *The Man who was Greenmantle*) who was then living in Rome. At that time Teresa, mother of four, was reading French and



Italian author Benedetta Craveri and Lady Teresa Waugh, who translated Craveri's book on Madame du Deffand

Italian as a mature student at Exeter University. And later, when she read Benedetta's book, she seized upon the idea of translating it into English. It has been a two-year undertaking — while at the same time running the Waugh house at Combe Florey and finishing her fourth and fifth novels.

Madame du Deffand has changed Benedetta Craveri's life in a quite unpredictable way. She used to be the

producer of cultural radio programmes in Rome. Thanks to the book she was appointed professor of French Literature at the University of Tuscia, Viterbo — and she found a new husband, the diplomat Benoit d'Abouville. This came about picturesquely when the book was published in France and she took part in the French book programme *Apostrophes* with Bernard Pivot.

"I sat next to him at dinner once," says Teresa. "He didn't like me at all."

"Well, Benoit was watching *Apostrophes* and asked an Italian diplomat friend if he knew me." Luckily the friend did; he arranged a dinner: they met, and married, which is how the elegant Benedetta finds herself the ambassador's wife in Prague. "So this book changed my life in every way."

Writer and translator never met or talked while the work was in progress. So they now discuss the decor of Deffand's salon (buttercup yellow silk walls hung with flame coloured swags) and Teresa tells Benedetta how the National Trust took over her family's stately home, Clondon Park, and introduced startling 18th-century colours that made one feel quite queasy.

Benedetta was keen to know whether Teresa agreed that Walpole must have been a homosexual. They both concluded that he was.

"A social climber," says Teresa, "and a terrific snob. Somebody who doesn't dare put his toe in the water but lives vicariously. There was something very ungentlemanly about the hurtful way he treated Madame du Deffand. I think he was probably a malicious little creep."

It transpires during their conversation that both women have watched their offspring produce novels. "My younger daughter has written a novel of adolescence," says Benedetta. "There is a portrait in it of a divorced mother who is very civilised, full of good intentions and immensely boring. And it is my portrait..."

"Yes, it's very odd when your children write novels," says Teresa (novelist Daisy). "You think gosh, I didn't realise they'd noticed that. Are they really so perceptive?"

Madame du Deffand and Her World is published by Peter Halban, £20.

GRRRAHAM'S PORT



W. & J. GRAHAM'S PORT

Just roll it round your tongue.

Cheaper car insurance

"Admiral saved me £125 - the saving says it all!"

Mr. M.H., Reading



ADMIRAL

You too could save £££'s. Call Admiral free on

0800 600 800

If your renewal is not due in the next 30 days, fill in the coupon below and freepost it to: Admiral, FREEPOST CF 3832, Admiral House, 38-42 Newport Road, CARDIFF, CF1 1YS.

Name: _____

Telephone No. _____

Day: _____

Evening: _____

Approximate renewal date: _____

هكذا من الأصل

The jacket has survived grunge and is back on the catwalk — nipped in at the waist, with shoulders



ABOVE: Chanel — total black-out styling



ABOVE: Krizia — sleek tailoring with black sweater
LEFT: Sonia Rykiel — shorts instead of skirt



ABOVE: Dolce & Gabbana — both skirt and trousers
LEFT: Dolce & Gabbana — neatly buttoned-up



ABOVE: Genny — an elegant fit
LEFT: Dolce & Gabbana — wrap A-line skirt



ABOVE: Chanel — taking the look from head to toe



ABOVE: Brown tweed jacket, £225 (matching A-line mini skirt, £229.99 Warehouse, branches nationwide)
CENTRE: Brown tweed jacket, £85; matching A-line wrap skirt, £30, Marks and Spencer, selected branches
Photographs by JOHN HICKS



ABOVE: Brown/grey tweed jacket, £225 (matching skirt, £179), Maxmara, Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1
Catwalk photographs by CHRIS MOORE
Make-up by Stephanie Jenkins. Hair by James Dodds
Shot at the High Rocks Complex, Tunbridge Wells

Suitably matched

There is nothing more enduring in a woman's wardrobe than a well-cut jacket. During the stylistic hiccup commonly known as grunge, the jacket was all but abandoned in favour of plaid shirts, slippery silky dresses, and softly, softly sweaters and cardigans. But the spring summer shows this year were full of carved jackets which nipped at the waist, and even exaggerated the shoulder line with the return of the maligned shoulderpad.

The wise designer never really stopped producing a jacket or two. Their selling collections (the ones which are shown to the buyers in the showroom after all the catwalk shenanigans are over) invariably include this eminently saleable item.

Some of the best jackets this winter come as part of a short

skirted suit. They are curvy, single or double breasted and worn with little A-line or wrap minis. This new mini tailored look will continue through into next summer.

Texture is all-important. Speckly tweeds — ranging from striking black and white to brown, soft oatmeal and creamy mixes — ensure the finished effect is far from hard-edged.

The little tweedy suit was extremely popular on the international catwalks. In Milan Dolce & Gabbana featured very short shorts worn over woolly tights. Although hemlines may be cut high on the thigh it still manages to appear a cover-all look, with polo neck sweaters a must.

Genny favoured a more elegant look with an edge-to-edge speckle suit, trimmed with leather, while Krizia offered a longer, double-breasted jacket completely hiding the hemline of the skirt.

In Paris, Karl Lagerfeld continued the cover-up theme in his collection for Chanel. Monochromatic flecked mini-skirt suits were accessorised with thigh-length boots made from the same fabric — the gap in between filled by the discovery of the last decade, black opaque tights.

Sonia Rykiel favoured shorts with her tweedy jackets, adding glamour with a handful of diamanté accessories, and black patent ankle boots.

New Yorker Isaac Mizrahi showed the perfect tweed suit — a double-breasted, curvy jacket with a fluted, flirty skirt which fell between thigh and knee. Ralph Lauren teamed a single-breasted version with a mini-skirt.

The little skirt suit has also become a favourite on the high street, with just as many differing styles available. Agnes B, Marks and Spencer, Hobbs, French Connection, Etam and Warehouse have all produced neat suits in flecked tweeds or heathery plaids.

With the January sales looming, now is a great time to shop for this great new classic. If the mini-skirt or shorts appear a little too off-beat, the jacket will prove endlessly useful. Worn with longer skirts, or wide, knitted trousers it still looks of the moment, and, more importantly, will never go out of style.



Fashion
by IAIN R. WEBB

N-Peal
Cashmere

PROMOTIONAL OFFER

The Ultimate Christmas gift — an N. Peal cashmere 2-ply crew neck for only \$179 (Reg. Price £225)



37 & 54 Burlington Arcade •
192 Piccadilly, London • Glencairn Hotel, Scotland
Tel: 071 499 6580

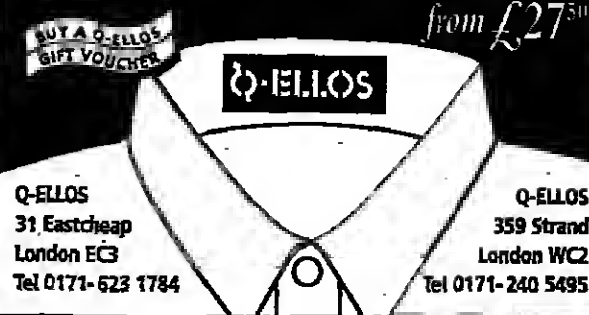
Free M. O. within U.K. Offer closes 24.12.94 subject to availability.

HOBB'S SALE NOW ON

REDUCTIONS UP TO 50%
ALL BRANCHES

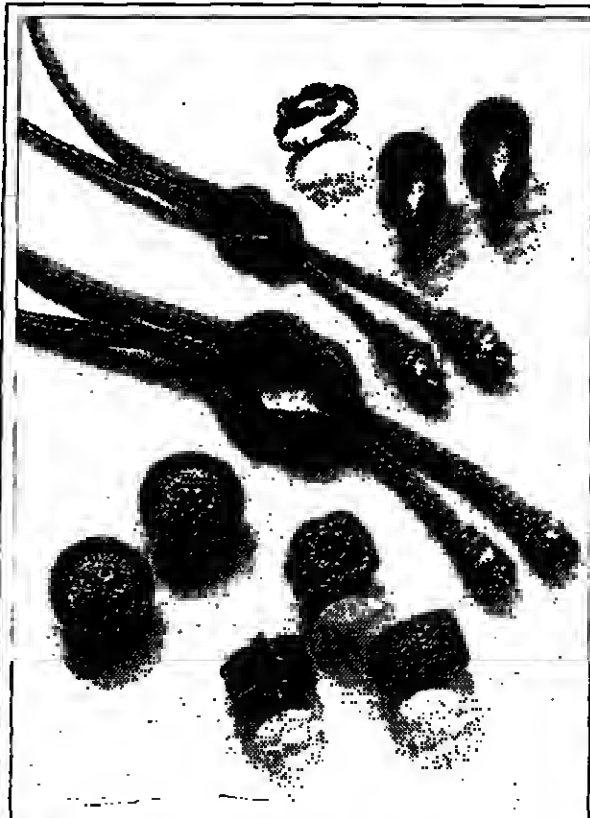
For enquiries telephone:
071-586 5550

MADE-TO-MEASURE SHIRTS



Q-ELIOS
31 Eastcheap
London EC3
Tel 0171-623 1784

Q-ELIOS
359 Strand
London WC2
Tel 0171-240 5495



Necklaces, earrings and rings in 18 and 22 carat gold inspired by classical and Hellenistic art.

Ilias LALAOUNIS

5 Sloane Street, London SW1 Tel. 0171 235 8440

ATHENS • NEW YORK • PARIS • GENEVA • ZURICH • TOKYO • HONG KONG
CORFU • MYKONOS • RHODES • ST. THOMAS

er c2
ance
d me £125
says it all
You too
could save
£££'s. Call
Admiral
free on
00 800
at due to the
coupon being
Household
REFUSE OFFER

Alan Coren



■ Come clean, whoever you are, for you are stealing my dreams

I have never yet taken anything to the European Court of Human Rights — it would mean hanging around for months in Strasbourg, a solid place enlivened only by the noise of geese having things poked down them to swell their livers (if a European Court of Poultry Rights is ever established, Strasburghers will have a lot to answer for) — but given the extraordinary concatenation of the past week's most momentous events, I may now be left with no other course. I seek clarification.

The first momentous event was that a man who years ago bought a painting at a flea market, took it home, and, according to all newspaper reports, "immediately threw it in his attic", has just discovered it to be worth £20 million. That is because it is by Van Gogh. You can tell this by looking in the lower right-hand corner, since that is where Vincent signed it, in huge red letters, and while you might argue that that doesn't prove anything, I would argue that it should at least be enough to exercise the curiosity of somebody who went out to buy a painting in the first place. If you or I did that, and saw the most unmistakable signature there is, I cannot believe that our first move would be to bung it immediately in the attic. Come to that, I cannot imagine why anyone would buy anything to bung in the attic immediately, unless, of course, he was barking mad — oh, look, beloved, a worthless painting, that will go very nicely with my tea-chest full of mouldy shoes, it will look terrific propped against your rusty Mickey Mouse tricycle, it will set off our pile of old Readers Digests a treat, pass me my chequebook — but what is even odder is that, many years later, he went back into the loft, looked at his picture again, and for some reason decided, this time, to ask Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum to authenticate it. Whereupon he was informed that it was as far from worthless as worthless as ever gets.

Leaving us with unmet questions of our own. For this lucky bastard has just realised one of mankind's most pervasive dreams: he has gone up a loft-ladder broke and come down it with £20 million, and we, who share that dream, want to know all there is to know about it. We shall, however, discover nothing: for he is, we were told, "exercising his right to remain anonymous".

I was still seething over this when the week's second most momentous event fortuitously collided with it. It was another of mankind's most pervasive dreams. It was the one about going into a newsagent's broke and coming out of it with £20 million. We, who share that dream, wanted to know all there was to know about it. We shall, however, discover nothing: for the jackpot-winner is, we were told, "exercising his right to remain anonymous".

Oh really? What right? There are 50 million of us out here, we have rights, too, what's so special about his that it should so cursorily disenfranchise ours? No man is an island, sunshine, you have realised your dream in all our behalves, we have the right to know who you are and what it is like to be who you are at this seminal moment, we even have the right to dog you for the rest of your days to see what happens, will you rise further, will you plummet, will you be happy, will you go mad? Lifelong scrutiny is the price for those who realise other people's dreams, it comes with the territory: you cannot just stick £17,880,003 in the Woolwich and slide back into snug obscurity, you do not have rights, what you have is obligations, what you have is duties.

National ones, what's more. So take a lesson from one who has ever appreciated what that means: for last week, incredibly, the third of mankind's most pervasive dreams was also realised, the one about finding a fortune buried in the garden. But unlike the wimp with the Van Gogh or the poltroon with the jackpot, this lucky winner did not flinch from the limelight's myriad threats. She exercised no specious right, cobbled to serve a selfish end and leave poor dreamers gnashing their teeth over the withheld identity of "a Windsor woman who yesterday discovered that oil under her lawn could be worth £100 billion". She stood up and was counted. She was, as always, an example to us all.



"BUT I AM THE OPPOSITION LEADER." *Philip Barker*

Taking the 30-year view

John Patten argues that the Tories must in future put responsibility, as well as property, back in private hands

In the middle of the tumult that seems to have taken a nearly endemic grip of our political life, it is vital for Tories to think long-term. It may help us to find the route back to what passes for normality in political life. In 1979, we started what will turn out to be a 30-year-long march if given the electoral chances. The agenda is only half fulfilled.

It is ludicrous for the political chattering classes to complain of the lack of a new Tory "big idea". Most centuries have only two or three big ideas given to them. After communism (which we rejected), 1945-welfarism (which we swallowed whole for a while) and then the post-1979 changes we have wrought, the 20th century's quota is used up.

So great have been the transformations in attitudes in the era of post-modern politics which we have created, that rosy economic prospects may not be enough. In the United States, the lessons of the presidential election in 1992 and of last month's Congressional elections demonstrate that a combination of incumbency and good economic fortune are not the copper-bottomed guarantee of electoral success that conventional wisdom once suggested. So we have to show the electorate a very clear map of where we are going. We have to tell them about the road we are travelling, and how we can give them a square deal and make their lives better. We do not have to come up with a new big idea, we have to tell people that the grand plan is to complete what we began in 1979.

The trouble is, the first 15 years were taken up with the easy half of the programme. It did not seem so at the time, but curbing union power, beginning the mass transfer of ownership of housing and privatising many state industries was relatively easy. Giving people the chance to own their own houses or buy shares was successful because people like to own things. Much more difficult is the task for the next 15 years: transferring responsibility along with ownership. We should give people scope to create a civic society for themselves, consistent with the fine old Tory principles of ownership and responsibility.

The process of shrinking the State by transferring ownership is not yet complete. To the immense moral profit of families and the social benefit of communities, we have created a house-owning democracy, but we do not yet have a share-owning community of any depth. The number of people with a

stake in the economic life of the country this way is slipping — from 11 million in 1991 to just nine million now. The Government still owns too much, everything from the British Waterways Board and the Post Office to the Covent Garden Market Authority and the Scottish Transport Group. Privatisation, that truly British medium-sized idea, still sweeps the globe, transforming post-communist countries and admired in each hemisphere. But the job is not complete. It remains the case that the best people to run businesses are business people. That is where we began: that is where we should finish. We should aim to have returned the lot to the private sector by 1999.

With such a clean slate to begin the new century, we could then concentrate all our energies on the transfer of responsibility, paralleling the transfer of ownership.

We are still prey to the narcotic habit that "they" will do the things we and our neighbours would do better if only we were given the chance, the money, and the responsibility. The fantasy that the amount of money a government spends on an issue is proportionate to its compassion still seduces people. But the reverse is true. The more responsibility for running communities is in community hands, the better life is going to be. That may now seem a fantastical suggestion, but then as recently as 1979, so did the idea of the State no longer owning car plants or providing housing.

We can already see the first signs of just how, if the State and local councils alike deliberately decide to steer but not to row, they can progressively make life better for those who get the chance to take more responsibility. There have been housing associations for some years. These bring together a combination of public and private money with public, private and voluntary endeavour, to provide social housing for rent.

To roars of tenant applause, councils such as the Vale of White Horse in bosky Oxfordshire, are transferring all of their homes to just such associations.

Government has taken the decision to give people the chance to take charge of education as well. Power was deliberately taken into the centre, away from local education authorities, and then redistributed to those who wanted it, in centrally funded but entirely locally run grant-maintained schools. Among these now are some of the most successful comprehensive schools. And grant-maintained schools are a new focus for community life. Run for local children by local

governors, business people, the churches and teachers, they help to bind neighbourhoods together.

Such endeavours have both practical and civic virtues. Money is better spent, and local involvement is promoted. Tenants and children are getting a better deal and, however, we must not stop here. Even now the scale of government needs to be much reduced. Officialdom still spends more than 40 per cent of the nation's wealth. Big government, even if well run by Conservatives, is not good government.

Take just two examples: stopping crime and looking after people in need. The first involves predominantly the young; the second the elderly. In the politics of crime, it is usually a mistake to underestimate the anger of voters. Capping the inexorable post-war rise of crime, and the matching growth in the petty inconveniences which make life unbearable, is a vital task. Detection, condign punishment and the principle of putting the victim first make a virtuous trio. Yet a fourth aim needs to be added. This is to prevent criminality among youngsters in the first place. Neighbourhood watches and parish constables are a very good start, making people more secure. If criminal behaviour is to be nipped in the

Some people still believe that compassion is proportionate to money spent

bud, this needs to be done by those who first sense the problem coming: parents, teachers, the police, local authorities, churches and others. These are the people who together can solve the problem. Criminal prevention should be at the heart of our anti-crime policy in the new century. If housing associations can succeed, why not "criminal prevention associations", targeting the young who are at risk and preventing them from becoming habitual offenders? This would be compassionate and effective local effort in action, marrying public funds and private effort in permanent local anti-crime networks.

By the same token, the provision of social care locally is likely to be more human and economic. In part of a city or a slice of countryside or along a stretch of coast, there is no reason why care in the community could not be publicly funded, but delivered by local organisations. This would be exactly that same mix of private individuals, volunteers and the private sector which helps to make grant-maintained schools and housing associations buzz and hum. County councils which bleed that even with all the extra money available they cannot manage to help those in need should forthwith transfer the task to "care associations" which can.

Labour MPs talk a lot about community. It is a venerable. They do not want diverse and varied provision. Whenever they hear of a grant-maintained school or locally run old people's homes, they complain that this must mean two tiers of provision. But they want to recreate bureaucratic domination without recreating municipal socialism. No Derek Hattons or Ted Knights, but equally no true devolution of power. Labour wants municipalism behind a façade of community rhetoric.

By comparison, the Conservative message, as we open up this second front for the new century, is that the local and mixed are much better than the bureaucratic and uniform. The practical Tory message should be that in social as in economic affairs, we will give the people a better deal and enhance their opportunities. And the moral component of this message is just as powerful, for it matches the benefits of ownership with the imperative of responsibility.

John Patten's book on the Tories in the 21st century will be published next year by Sinclair-Stevenson.

Why prey must have a chance

Geoffrey

Wheatcroft on an unsporting kill

Hardly any of us are entirely logical or honest about the hunting of animals. "Hardly any" because logic has to be conceded to strict vegans who won't drink milk or wear leather, let alone eat meat or take an animal's life, not to mention the Jains who wear face masks so as not to swallow tiny insects inadvertently.

The rest of us are inevitably ambiguous and hypocritical. Most of us do eat meat and wear leather and wool, many of us enjoy some form of field sport. And yet we are still revolted by a story like the shooting of three practically tame elephants into Tanzania, from the Amboseli National Park in Kenya. One of the three carcasses has been identified as "RGB", his two companions were almost certainly other known and named elephants from the same herd, which now has only five live bulls remaining.

Shooting RGB, says Cynthia Moss, who spent a decade studying the Amboseli herd, "was as sporting as shooting your neighbour's poodle". The crucial word is "sporting", and it explains our revulsion. The elephants may not have died particularly painful deaths, but they were quite without defences. There is clearly a difference between stalking a wild stag, which deceits and takes flight at a human, being several hundred yards away, and chubbing a corpulent deer in a public park. Our perception of the two deaths has to do less with cruelty than with fairness, and with some equally intangible aesthetic quality.

No doubt we are hypocrites if we make an absolute distinction between trout fishing and bear-baiting, as most of us do. In both cases, an animal is being used, or abused, perhaps killed, for pleasure. But instinct tells us that there is a difference, quite apart from degrees of cruelty. The trout has a chance — it doesn't have to take the fly, after all — while the baited bear has none. Unlike the fish, it is there for no other purpose than to be killed by a human.

This is misunderstood even within the debate over those field sports which remain legal. With a high level of hypocrisy, the Labour Party wants to ban foxhunting, but has nothing to say about fishing. This is, you might say, not unconnected with the fact that the former is the sport of a quarter of a million people, few of whom vote Labour, and the latter of four million people, many of whom do.

But class animus and intellectual dishonesty aside, there is a point missed by Tony Blair's colleagues — few of them, one imagines, being familiar with, or even aware of, the difference between, say, trout and salmon. I don't hunt but I do fish, yet if I had to choose to outlaw one field sport, it would not be hunting. At least the foxes hunted and the hares coursed are wild creatures. But there is surely something aesthetically displeasing about modern commercial trout fishing and pheasant shooting.

Millions upon millions of fish and birds are artificially reared to be stocked, and put down, and then caught or shot. A sorry change came over the English countryside in the 19th century, when it was discovered that game birds could be bred like geese or turkeys, though at a cost. "Up goes a guinea, bang goes sixpence, down comes half-a-crown": the Victorian joke about shooting still applies, though it should be index-linked for inflation. All the guns who will be out on Boxing Day would be disgusted by the "sport" on offer before the war at Monte Carlo, where live pigeons were released from cages to be shot by paying guests. They might even dislike those vast Edwardian battues in Norfolk, where thousands of birds were shot in a day. They might reflect on the artificiality of their own sport.

Fashions change, and sensibilities shrink. Field sportsmen nowadays hunt of a century ago, or even of Hemingway's time — large parties, organised at great expense to shoot as many heads of elephant or tiger as possible with the minimum of inconvenience. In extreme cases, for poor shots who could scarcely manage life in the bush, lions or buffaloes would be captured and tethered to be shot. As a by-product, this was not in itself inhumane — it might be considerably more humane than letting the poor shots loose to wound but not kill moving targets — but it still offends against a deep instinct.

So it does with RGB and his inoffensive companions. In his essay "Shooting an Elephant", George Orwell wrote of his aversion to having to do just that, even though he was "not squeamish about killing animals". He did so for safety rather than ivory, after the elephant had killed a man in his village in Burma. Opinion divided afterwards: "the owner was furious, but he was only an Indian and could do nothing", while younger European colleagues "said it was a damn shame to shoot an elephant for killing a coolie, because an elephant was worth more than any damn Coringhee coolie". But Orwell felt that he was doing something unnatural, shooting that great, slow beast "with the preoccupied grandmotherly air that elephants have. It seemed to me that it would be murder to shoot him".

No such scruples afflicted the "white hunters" who killed RGB, and who are doubtless impervious to either ethical or aesthetic argument. But for the rest of us, even as we go on chasing animals, we have to justify sport by that very word. It's not the lack of decency or humanity in killing a tame elephant, not even the grubby greed that offends, but quite simply the lack of anything resembling a sportsman's challenge.

Class act

THE LABOUR PARTY has opened up a new flank in its campaign, and is training its sights on the well-heeled sophisticates who flick idly through glossy titles. John Prescott launches the initiative this week in *Tatler's* January issue, appealing for readers to write to him under the banner "Tatler Readers for Labour".

The call for votes is accompanied by a Prescott polemic in the magazine. "I must admit, I'm as surprised as you to find myself writing for *Tatler*," he gushes. "But a vote's a vote, and I suspect many *Tatler* readers wasted theirs on the Tories at the last election. I must be perfectly honest. I have never read *Tatler* before, let alone written an article for it."

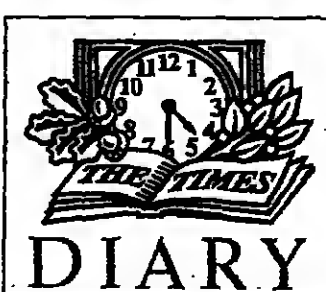
The deputy leader goes on to talk proudly of his roots. "A working-class boy who left school at 15 to train as a chef, worked for 10 years at sea as a steward, came up through the ranks of the trade union movement and returned to formal education." Prescott's office is proud of the article. "I am sure we would write for *Harpers & Queen* and *Country Life*. We will recruit members wherever we can," says a spokesman.

Tatler, too, recognises its coup.

"Obviously, it's very incongruous, but that's the nature of the magazine," says editor Jane Procter. "And there are an awful lot of young affluent people who will be voting Labour next time."

Of a feather

WITH A HUFF and a squawk, the manager of one of London's better-known drinking haunts has upped and left the restaurant he looked after for 20 years. He debunked



with 22 staff and a menagerie of pets, including two labradors and a brace of parrots. Regulars at the L'Artiste Assolife will miss in particular the two noisy birds, which presided over dinners indulging in after-dinner minutes. But Vincent Garbarino says he fell out with the new owner of the restaurant, so he's decamped to start afresh at Arcadia, a nearby establishment. Back at L'Artiste Assolife, two new parrots have been recruited.

Top whack

AN IDEAL weekend break over the new year holiday is available to any lottery winner. The Lanesborough Hotel claims to be offering the most expensive winter weekend, at £29,000 for two in its royal suite. Separate suites will be made available for eight guests.

Hairdressers, manicurists and masseurs will be on standby, and a dinner for ten features a piper at midnight. Presents come from Garrards, jeweller to the Queen. Worth £1,000 each, they are said to include a sterling silver watering-can for serving salad dressing. On New Year's Day, the party heads for Moyn's Park, the country estate of Lord and Lady Ivar Mountbatten, where an ice-rink will be created for the day's entertainment.

Off colour

THE LEGACY of Ambleside's most famous inhabitant has come back to haunt parishioners of the Lake District tourist trap. Newly published letters by the children's writer Beatrix Potter show that she thought the stained-glass windows in Ambleside church quite execrable.

Describing a funeral at the church in a letter to her good friend Louie Choyce, Potter complained she "was sitting waiting opposite the most atrocious stained-glass memorial window, with forget-me-nots as large as cabbages and colour to match". The diatribe surprises the Rev. Doreen Harrison, curate of St Mary's. "It may not be one of our best, but the forget-me-nots are definitely blue — not green."



Sir Hector and Doris Kaestner: Florida wedding

Publican Trevor Coyne wanted his Rosie O'Grady tavern in Cork completely refurbished in time for Christmas. He expected the work to take a week, and hired 30 students from Cork University. In lieu of wages he offered a night's free drinking. The work was finished in 24 hours.

Best friends

PACKING his best bib and tucker this Christmas is Sir Hector Monro, the 72-year-old Scottish Office minister and MP for Dumfriesshire. He is flying to Florida to get married in Fort Lauderdale. Monro's bride is a long-standing family friend, Doris Kaestner,

who hails from Baltimore. Like Sir Hector, whose wife died this year, Kaestner has lost her spouse. But Kaestner and her husband had been friends with Sir Hector and Lady Anne ever since their encounter on a golf course some 15 years ago. Sir Hector's sons, Brigadier Seymour Monro and Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Monro, have pronounced themselves "delighted" with the match.

After a short honeymoon in Florida, Sir Hector will return to his parliamentary duties. He offered only a brief comment yesterday on the timing: "Neither of us is getting any younger."

P.H.S.

هكذا من الأصل



PEACE MONEY

Three lessons for those who would invest in Ulster

The prospects for peace in Northern Ireland have always been closely linked to its economic plight. Unemployment, poverty and sectarian recruitment policies have long fuelled nationalist anger: it is equally certain that potential investors have been deterred by the violence of the last 25 years. Yesterday 300 delegates gathered at an international conference in Belfast to encourage economic growth in the Province. They should be under no illusions about the scale of the challenge they face.

The possibility of a "peace dividend" has been one of the incentives implicit in the peace process launched by the Downing Street declaration a year ago. Even the most deeply sceptical Unionists admit that an investment spree would be warmly welcomed in Ulster. The growing Protestant middle class is eager to see the development of a mature economy to support its commercial and cultural ambitions; the nationalist community is desperate for work. The desire to woo investors is one of the few aspirations that cross sectarian lines.

The response to the three-month-old IRA ceasefire from overseas has been rapid and generous. A package of aid has already been pledged by the United States, with the prospect of more to come from the American private sector. Last week, the European Commission announced its grandiloquent intention to hasten the end of the "last civil war within the European Union" with a £240 million grant over the next five years, additional to the £930 million which Ulster has already been promised. Large sums will soon be pouring into the North.

It is vital that this opportunity should not be squandered. Ulster's economic fortunes this century have been scarred by more than the Troubles. Myopic government intervention, cartelisation and the local preference for private rather than limited companies

have also taken their toll. Because the region lacks raw materials, the gradual contraction of its shipbuilding and linen industries was a desperate loss. So dependent has the North become upon subsidies from Whitehall, that by the mid-1980s public spending accounted for 70 per cent of GDP in the Province and 45 per cent of the workforce was directly employed by the public sector. This year, £3.7 billion has been spent by the taxpayer in Ulster — only a third of which is accounted for by security costs.

The new aid programmes should aim to wean the North off this dependency. Growth in the area has been surprisingly fast in the last 30 years but has failed to keep pace with the birthrate. Long-term unemployment is more pronounced a problem than elsewhere in the United Kingdom and only 500 jobs a year have been created by inward investment in the last decade. Given that there are 100,000 people out of work in the Province, the likelihood of a politically convenient solution to the problem of unemployment is extremely small. Investors should therefore concentrate on three objectives.

First, they should have the courage to pour money into research and development as well as short-term projects. Ulster's current spending in this area is only half the UK average, a reflection of the area's general preference for low-technology business. Second, the existing community employment schemes should be expanded to help as many of the long-term unemployed as possible back into the labour market. Third, rigorous auditing procedures should be established to prevent a fresh burst of paramilitary racketeering. It is often said that the IRA is so indirectly dependent upon state subventions that it could never afford a British withdrawal. However the new money is spent, none of it must reach the men of violence.

CLEAN ROMAN HAND

Italy's battle to break with its scandalous past continues

Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian Prime Minister, spent yesterday answering the searching questions of Milan magistrates on his possible knowledge of bribes paid by his company Fininvest to tax police before he swept to power in March. When he was forming his Government in May, the man to whom he unsuccessfully attempted to offer the Ministry of the Interior was Antonio Di Pietro. It was an acknowledgement of the unique reverence and affection Italians have for this police officer-turned-magistrate, who has come to symbolise more than any other individual Italy's struggle to break with its scandal-ridden past. Last week, in the wake of Signor Di Pietro's dramatic announcement of his resignation from Milan's "clean hands" anti-corruption team, the Prime Minister repeated that the magistrate would be a welcome asset in Italian politics, and added: "Everyone would rather have him as an ally than a rival."

Signor Berlusconi should have thought of this earlier. The decline in his Government's fortunes since May can be charted by reference to the escalating confrontation between the two men. Neapolitan families buy Antonio Di Pietro figurines to decorate their Christmas cribs. Poles show that if both were to run for the Prime Minister's office, the magistrate would score seven votes to every three for Signor Berlusconi.

There has been constant public sparring since July, when the Milan magistrates forced Signor Berlusconi to rescind a decree which would have curbed their powers of pre-trial arrest in corruption cases. Matters came to a head last month. Signor Di Pietro

chose the moment when the Prime Minister was presiding over an international conference on organised crime to issue the formal notification that he was personally under investigation for corruption. A week later, Italy's Supreme Court appeared to vindicate the Prime Minister's allegations of political bias when it ordered the transfer of the bribery case from Milan to sleepy Brescia. But Signor Di Pietro's emotional resignation letter, complaining that he had been used in a game of political rug-of-war and been made a hostage to politics, spun the wheel full circle.

The final score — assuming that this resignation stands — hands the magistrate a clear victory. It is he who is seen as the real champion of the principle that justice should be blind. The Prime Minister who complained that he was being hounded now appears in the guise of persecutor.

The Prime Minister may be fatally weakened. Once the 1995 budget is approved by the Italian parliament — as by law it must be before the year's end — all bets that his awkward coalition will hold together are now off. In January its most powerful member, Gianfranco Fini, will put his political future on the line by demanding that his supporters disband the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement in favour of his National Alliance. The Alliance's new policy document swears allegiance to democratic values "which fascism trampled underfoot". If he succeeds, that could pave the way for fresh elections. Signor Di Pietro has yet to reveal his plans for the future. Italy may not have to wait long.

SMALL WHITE HUNTERS

Where is the pride in shooting a tame elephant?

There is something patently despicable in shooting three old and almost domesticated elephants that had strayed out of a national park in Kenya. Not only is the inequality of the combat between slow trusting animals and high-velocity rifles grotesque, the very notion of big game hunting as an acceptable "sport" becomes repugnant in an age where the indiscriminate slaughter of wildlife is changing the face of the natural world.

Yet there are still men who want to ape their ancestors and kill "big game". Reconciling man's desire to kill and collect trophies with the need to preserve the target species has proved one of the most difficult and controversial areas for wildlife conservation.

Game parks can be set up to protect endangered species. But free from their predators — principally humans — elephants, lions and buffalo tend to reproduce faster than their environment can sustain, and have to be culled. In some parts of the world, the culling of protected species has been successfully linked to the granting of hunting licences. Deer-stalking in Scotland or wildfowl shooting in Texas is carefully regulated, and licences are granted in strict accordance with the game population.

This often works well: the large sums that stalkers and hunters are prepared to pay can be ploughed back into wildlife management, conservation and the pursuit of poachers. In other places, however, the same profitable arrangement has had less happy results. The destabilising factor is corruption. However well balanced the legislation in Kenya and how ever committed the Government is to preserving its magnificent wildlife, brib-

ery undermines every good intention. Hunting often attracts the most unscrupulous elements, who are willing to pay up to \$25,000 for their sport. In poor countries, the temptation to pocket a bribe and look the other way is overwhelming — especially when corruption is universal and endemic.

The absence of regional co-operation in East Africa, for example, makes a mockery of borders which neither animals nor hunters respect. Big game can be lured from state parks and across political boundaries. Bribery can procure an instant hunting licence, and the animals become sitting targets.

Organisations such as the World Wide Fund For Nature are reluctant to call for a blanket moratorium on hunting because the money it generates can do so much to protect endangered animals. The hard task is to ensure that the money does not line the pockets of corrupt government officials, or hunting organisers, but goes instead to the rural communities that have an interest in protecting the species around them. Zimbabwe has one of the best policies. The licence money goes directly to the local villagers who, thus, have an interest in acting as voluntary gamekeepers.

Such schemes will not eliminate poaching or abuse by themselves. But they deserve help and support. It is beneficial too that the fashion for trophies on the wall or skins on the floor is fading in many parts of the world. Those advances should be accelerated in every possible way. Even if the demand to kill Africa's natural world may eventually diminish, the process is likely to be slow — too slow for many species.

Case for release of Myra Hindley

From Mr David L. Astor and Lord Longford

Sir, Your leading article, "No pleas for Hindley" (December 10), took issue with our support for parole for Myra Hindley. We condemn the crimes of Ian Brady and his assistant, Hindley, as much as you do. We believe our difference lies, rather, in our view of the effects on our society of treating someone as demonic — as the Jews were grotesquely treated in Germany, and as women called witches were once treated throughout Europe.

This process of dehumanising a hate-figure began here when our tabloid newspapers discovered the special excitement caused by a woman being involved in sadistic child murder. For nearly thirty years now, the tabloids have been re-telling the details of this terrible story as often as possible.

As there have been few new facts, the story has been refreshed with fabrications sold by ex-prisoners or prison officers and published with the repeated violent denunciations by relatives of the victims.

This performance has produced probably the longest running story in newspaper history. That it has been a great circulation success is shown by the keen competition between the tabloids in bidding against each other.

The indirect effects of this evil hate-campaign have been to encourage a belief, even among non-tabloid readers, that a woman in Cookham Wood Prison has unnatural powers of manipulation. So Myra Hindley is now apparently considered to live outside the protection of the law. Threats to kill her are frequently made in newspapers and broadcasts with impunity.

The attitude of all successive governments has been similar. They have taken no notice that she has twice been recommended for parole. Home Office officials and prison governors will freely say that the proper procedure has not been followed in her case. And the reason they all agree is ministerial fear.

The culmination of this debasing process will soon arrive when the Home Secretary announces his doctrine that a few prisoners will die in prison because the public wants to see this happen. This new version of the "outrage" must not be accepted passively by Parliament, the Churches or the media.

One day, future ministers may think it wiser to let judges decide the fate of lifers, so that people do not have to die in prison to help governments win votes. Meanwhile, we are faced with a form of "lynch law" by instalments.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID L. ASTOR,
FRANK LONGFORD,
24 St Ann's Terrace, NW3,
December 13.

VAT on fuel

From Mr H. L. Scott

Sir, Mr B. W. Crossan (letter, December 8) contends that VAT on fuel is fair. I would be interested to know how he considers it fair that a householder in the north of Scotland should have to pay considerably more of this tax than the occupier of an equivalent house in the warmer south of England.

Yours faithfully,
H. L. SCOTT,
Ardmor,
Kyleakin, Isle of Skye,
December 10.

Death-rate tables

From Dr Graham Crompton, President of the British Thoracic Society, and others

Sir, Your report on death-rate tables in hospitals (November 24; also letters, November 30) caused considerable concern to those of us involved in the care of people with asthma.

In fact 60 per cent of deaths from asthma occur outside hospital, and the numbers of deaths each year in any one hospital is so small that even one death might make the difference between being at the very top of a league table or being close to the bottom.

How, furthermore, should tables be interpreted? Being at the bottom of the league table might mean poor care, or it might mean that the hospital has such a concentration of expertise and facilities that it attracts referrals of severe, high-risk asthmatics from far and wide.

Asthma is a vital issue, but attention should be directed not to the production of potentially misleading and indeed uninterpretable figures, but at ways of ensuring that adequate resources are directed to research into the prevention and treatment of asthma, and into the provision of facilities for the care, support and education of those with this disease.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM CROMPTON,
President, British Thoracic Society,
MARTYN PARTRIDGE,
Chairman, Board of Management,
National Asthma Campaign,
JOHN MOORE-GILLON,
Chairman, Executive Committee,
British Lung Foundation,
c/o The British Thoracic Society,
1 St Andrews Place, NW1,
December 1.

Labour's future policy on monarchy

From Mr Julian Randall

Sir, Far from being "scared away" by Mr Jack Straw's proposals for "slimming down" the monarchy ("Labour's new republic", leading article, December 5) I am interested in them. At least the party is prepared to think positively about our future as a country and what that means constitutionally. "Sense of Britishness", "stepped in history" — what am I reading? Can we not debate the issues without resort to naive astonishment? The fact is that the monarchy, like any other human institution, is not "above the political fray". Those who watched the Prince of Wales's film last June will have been surprised less at his admission of adultery than the ease with which he can summon elected ministers and bring his interests to their attention.

Few people want to do away with monarchy completely. But reform of the House of Lords and proportional representation are not "teenage madness", as John Major has claimed: they are part of the search for the classless society to which he pays lip service.

Your readers can surely be trusted to decide on these matters without your pandering to fears born of the past.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN RANDALL,
36 Copper Beech Wynd,
Cairnreilly, Dunfermline.

From Sir Nicholas Barrington

Sir, I don't know what politicians' proposals for reducing the number of members of the Royal Family who perform public functions would amount to in practice (Agenda, December 12); but it may be worth recording that while I was serving in Pakistan we had immensely successful and productive visits by Princess Alexandra and her husband, and by the Duke of Gloucester.

Both these visits made a major contribution to Britain's good relations with and image in Pakistan and to our commercial and other interests there. I know also from personal experience in other posts what valuable work the Duke of Kent has done for British exports.

In considering British national interests the asset represented by such visits should not be overlooked.

Yours etc,
NICHOLAS BARRINGTON
(Ambassador and High Commissioner to Pakistan, 1987-94),
The Atheneum,
Whitehall Place, SW1,
December 12.

Dowsing tests

From Dr G. F. Wood

Sir, Professor Vincent Reddish ("Water diviners look to the stars", report, December 1) should surely establish that a phenomenon exists before he investigates it.

There have been a number of experimental investigations into dowsing in the last 50 years, carried out under properly controlled conditions. In general, dowsers have attempted to locate static reservoirs or flowing conduits of water, situated beneath the surface in pre-arranged patterns known only to the testers.

In none of these tests has a dowser ever achieved a better-than-chance rate of success.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WOOD,
14 Whitcroft,
Nailsworth, Gloucestershire,
December 4.

From Professor Rajeev Bansal

Sir, Your Science Editor's brief account of the mystery of water dowsing left me dismayed. I recognise that the view that the dowsing force is produced by a form of radiation from cos-

Reducing car numbers

From Mrs Dawn Lowe-Watson

Sir, If people work from home to stop the commuter flow into London (Mr Vinter's letter, December 10) then the inner cities will finally give up the ghost. Companies will move out to green-field sites, thus polluting the countryside and enlarging perimeter towns still further. Traffic volume in rural and provincial areas will build up as a result, and thus the sickness spreads.

The answer, as George Stern suggests in his visionary article, "How to clear our city streets" (December 3), must be to improve the quantity and quality of public transport.

To return home by bus or Tube after an evening at the theatre, a concert hall or a West End cinema can be a threatening experience and one which daunts many, especially women travelling alone. Far more care must be given to make late-night public transport safe if music and drama are to survive in central London.

Mr Stern rightly says that our black cabs are one area of excellence and need no competition — so long as they do not price themselves out of the market.

Yours faithfully,
DAWN LOWE-WATSON,
Flat 2, 25 Noel Road,
Islington, N1,
December 10.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

From Mr Peter Townsend

Sir, I do hope that the "five or six people" allowed to perform official duties in Mr Straw's demolished Royal Family (report, December 5) can be extended to include the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke and Duchess of Kent, Princess Alexandra and Prince and Princess Michael.

These are the real Royal Family who do all the hard work and epitomise the value of royal activities which they perform with enthusiasm and charm, winning the praise and admiration of all who come into contact with them. Political pronouncements and marital scandals are almost non-existent.

Incidentally, I don't know how Mr Straw obtained his "40 His or Her Royal Highnesses": I can count only 20 (and two Majesties). The next generation, except in direct line, have no royal status, nor do they perform any duties. Mr Straw should consult King George V's curialment of royal titles at the time of the first world war.

Yours faithfully,
PETER TOWNSEND,
36 Chelsea Towers,
Chelsea Manor Gardens, SW3,
December 6.

From Mrs Rupert Lycett Green

Sir, The Royal Family bring happiness to millions of lives. Why else would they get thousands and thousands of requests each year to attend anything from an eight-year-old child's tea party to the opening of a Glasgow superstore, or to patronise anything from a spire appeal for a Cornish church to a world wildlife organisation. Politicians and filmstars don't receive anywhere near the same level of requests. I wonder why not?

Yours sincerely,
CANDIDA LYCETT GREEN,
Orchard Cottage,
Compton Beauchamp,
Strivenham, Wiltshire,
December 7.

From the Secretary-General of the Monarchist League

Sir, Alan Hamilton, in his article of December 5, tells us that the royal heads of state in Scandinavia receive "state handouts". Could he tell us what he calls amounts paid to Europe's republican presidents?

Yours faithfully,
DONALD FOREMAN,
Secretary-General,
The Monarchist League,
BM "Monarchist",
London WC1N 3XX.

mic sources is held by Professor Vincent Reddish and not necessarily shared by the Science Editor. However, in presenting Professor Reddish's maverick belief without any critical discussion, the Science Editor is (in my opinion) short-changing the readers.

The report conveys the impression that the "distinguished British scientist" Professor Reddish validated his theory by "a series of experiments", but there is no indication that any fully controlled or blind experiments were carried out.

For example, Professor Reddish appears to have tested his claim that aluminium blocks the dowsing force by asking six (self-professed) dowsers to wrap aluminium foil over their shoes and walk over known pipes. I am afraid that does not sound like "straightforward experimental physics" to me.

Yours faithfully,
RAJEEV BANSAL (Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering, University of Connecticut, Department of Engineering Science, Parks Road, Oxford,
December 2.

Oral cancer risks

From Mr G. P. Fearer

Sir, Your article on smoking cannabis (Body and Mind, December 8) appeared, with some irony, one day after a conference in London on smoking and oral health, held to bring together health professionals to address the disturbing increase in oral cancer, especially amongst younger age groups.

A clear link has been established between smoking and oral cancer. Many of us working in oral cancer prevention have argued strongly in favour of health promotion and screening to increase awareness of this disease and its link with smoking.

It is likely that there is an increased risk of oral cancer in those who regularly smoke cannabis. Oral cancer is a dreadful disfiguring disease; survival rates have improved little this century and it remains more lethal than most cancers. Prevention is the only way this disease can be overcome for future generations.

Included in any debate on the legalisation of cannabis must be a thorough evaluation of the measurable physical consequences of this drug and its impact on the prevalence of oral cancer. Calls to legalise cannabis will otherwise undermine the efforts of many committed to reducing the morbidity and mortality of this terrible disease.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD FEARER
(Chief Dental Officer),
Marks & Spencer plc,
Michael House, Baker Street, W1,
December 12.

Friends who need to be kept warm

From Mr David Harrop

Sir, The intolerance revealed by some of those writing about word-processed Christmas letters (November 28, December 3, 8) is not surprising. We must all have relatives who respond to our efforts to keep in touch by checking our spelling.

However, I am surprised at the poor awareness that some of the writers show on the nature of relationships. Friendship is not a two-state matter: on or off. Rather it is a continuum from immediate intimacy, tapering away to those with whom we have all but lost contact.

In a mobile career I have been most grateful for the friendship of colleagues and acquaintances, many of whom are now distant, yet I know that if the turn of events brought us together again we could pick up more or less where we left off.

I receive a number of printed letters at this time of year, and although not every family reference is exciting, many of the details are interesting. Most importantly, they maintain the link. It would be quite unrealistic for me to expect more distant friends to take the time to prepare handwritten notes.

I hope that those who receive mine value them for what they indicate rather than for their content or style, and are grateful that they need not struggle to decipher my handwriting. I am happy that the spelling checker will help to keep Great Aunt Doris calm.

Love to you all,
DAVID,
68 Burgess Wood Road South,
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire,
December 9.

From Mr P. H. Wolton

Sir, Today I returned home with a great sense of satisfaction, having posted our Christmas cards which, because my wife and I have just spent our first year abroad, for the first time contain a round-robin letter.

Imagine my discomfort to find a fax of your recent correspondence, sent by a well-meaning father. Clearly opinion is divided on whether we have done the right thing. Should ex-pats be subject to a different set of rules on this tricky matter, or are we the worst offenders?

Yours faithfully,
PETER WOLTON,
1-23-23 Higashiyama,
Meguro-ku,
Tokyo 153, Japan,
December 9.

Theatre proposals

From Mr Andrew Hamilton

Sir, I suspect that most people who know the Royal National Theatre will be stupefied by Lord Annan's letter (December 12).

I wonder whether Sir Denis Lasdun and Lord Annan have ever visited the depressing underworld which exists beneath their hallowed "walkway".

The Royal National needs a major facelift, not minor surgery.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW HAMILTON,
8 Carlyle Square, SW3,
December 12.

From Lady Engle

Sir, Noel Annan is absolutely right. Denis Lasdun's National Theatre works brilliantly and has given us enormous pleasure.

If we can fund improvements to discover front doors in theatres, would the Barbican not be a much stronger applicant?

Yours sincerely,
IRENE ENGLE,
32 Wood Lane, Highgate, N6.

Equality in uniform

From Miss Susan Daly

Sir, I disagree with Margaret Leeson's article (Education, December 12). Surely, the main aim of school uniform is not to impose discipline or conformity, or even to crush individuality, but quite simply to create equality. If all the children wear the same white shirt and dark blue jumper, then less well-off children do not have to feel ashamed or left out.

Margaret Leeson is right, children do want to belong. But how can they, if they do not have the right clothes? How can they blossom as individuals if they are being mocked and bullied about what they wear? Many schools now have a very simple uniform — without tie, blazer or boater — which is no doubt much cheaper for parents, and I am sure many children are very grateful that they do not have to worry every morning about what to wear.

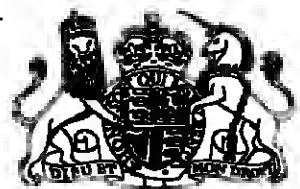
Yours faithfully,
SUSAN DALY,
18 Circus Street, Greenwich, SE10.

Mythical calculation

From Mr P. M. B. Savage

Sir, Among the objects from Ripley Castle to be sold (report, December 10) you mention "a marble lifesize sculpture of Venus". How big would that be?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK SAVAGE,
Aynhoe Park,
Nr Banbury, Oxfordshire.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 13: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Viscount Tonypanay was received by Her Majesty.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded the Lady Elton as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE
December 13: Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Beale today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Deputy President of the British Red Cross Society, when Her Majesty presented him with the Queen's Badge of Honour and Certificate.

Lieutenant-General Sir Cameron Moffat had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Deputy President of the British Red Cross Society, when Her Majesty presented him with the Queen's Badge of Honour and Certificate.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 13: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this evening gave a dinner to mark the retirement of the Lord Ashurst KG as Lord Warden of the Stannaries.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 13: The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, Order of St John, and The Duchess of Gloucester were present this evening at a Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas at the Grand Priory Church, St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, London EC1.

Mrs Euan McCorquodale and Major Nicholas Barne were in attendance.

Today's royal engagements
The Prince of Wales, as President of Business in the Community, will hear reports from business leaders, who have attended Business in the Community's Seeing is Believing programme during the autumn, at St James's Palace, at 2.30, and will host a dinner for the Foundation for Integrated Medicine at 8.30.

The Princess Royal, as President of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend a fund-raising luncheon at Saltaire House, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, at 1.30, and will attend a reception at Lothian Regional Chambers, Parliament Square, at 3.30, and will attend a dinner at Prestonfield House at 6.30.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, will attend a carol concert in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, at 6.35.

The Duke of Kent will receive an honorary doctorate of philosophy of London Guildhall University at the Barburian Arts and Conference Centre at 10.30.

Princess Alexandra, as Chancellor of Lancaster University, will open Chancellor's Wharf student residences at 11.45 and will preside at ceremonies for the conferral of higher and honorary degrees and postgraduate diplomas at 12.30.

Election
Sir John Tooley has been elected an honorary member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

YORK HOUSE
December 13: The Duke of Kent, Colonel, Scots Guards, today received Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Fitzalan Howard, Commanding the 1st Battalion, on relinquishing the appointment and Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Miller, Bawell on assuming the appointment.

The Duke of Kent, Patron, the Leukaemia Research Fund, this evening attended a carol concert, the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Palace, London SW7.

Captain Alexander Tetley was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent this morning presented the 'Children of Courage Awards', Westminster Abbey, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, this afternoon opened the Leopold Muller Macmillan Day Centre, Whips Cross Hospital, Whips Cross, Leytonstone, London E11.

Mrs Richard Becker was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
December 13: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon visited St Christopher's Hospice, 51-59 Lawrie Park Road, Sydenham, London SE26.

Mrs Peter Afa was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, President, this evening attended a Concert of Christmas Carols and Readings in aid of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund at St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4.

The Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

Birthdays today
Mr David Band, chief executive, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, 52; Captain the Hon Sir Nicholas Beaumont, 65; Mr Vivian Bendall, MP, 56; Professor Richard Cassilly, 67; General Sir Desmond Flanagan, 62; The Right Rev J.B. Grindrod, former Archbishop of Brisbane and Primate of Australia, 75; Sir Anthony Kershaw, former MP, 79; Miss Barbara Leigh-Hunt, actress, 59; Mr Thomas McAvoy, MP, 51; Mr Robert Mitchell, former chairman, GILC, 81; Mr C.R. Morris, former MP, 68; Mr Alberto Morocco, painter, 77.

Mr Toby Newth, governor, Exeter Prison, 57; Sir John Osborn, former MP, 72; Dame Ruth Railton, founder, National Youth Orchestra, 79; Mr Stan Smith, tennis player, 48; Mr Roy Thomson, MP, 50; Sir Simon Townley, Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, 73; Colonel Sir Connolly Traherne, KG, former Lord Lieutenant of Mid-South and West Glamorgan, 84; Miss Rosalyn Turek, conductor, 80; Mr Peter Williams, rugby league player, 34.

Scriveners' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and Mr Sheriff and Mrs Jonathan Charkham, was present with Scriveners' Company Quill Pen by the Master, Mr A.H. Hamilton-Hopkins, yesterday at the Mansion House.



Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of SANE, the schizophrenia charity, and a former journalist on *The Times*, after being appointed MBE by the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday. Mr Wallace has raised £6 million to build a research centre into the causes of mental illness. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Stamatia Xylas, the Greek shipowner, each gave £1.75 million. The Sultan of Brunei and the Medical Research Council each gave £1 million. Oxford University £500,000 and an appeal in *The Times* in May drew many donations from the public.

University news

The Royal Academy of Engineering
The Royal Academy of Engineering has awarded Jerwood Foundation a research grant of £100,000 to ten outstanding 1994 university graduates. They are:

Matthew Bradley, GKN Technology, ex University of Bristol; Alan Hocknell, Loughborough University of Technology, ex Imperial College; Naomi Johnston, Parkman Consulting Engineers, ex The Queen's University; Belinda Kelly, British Gas, ex University of Durham; Catherine Pitt, Trafalgar House Construction Limited, ex University of Bristol; Darren Sleaford, British Sugar, ex UMIST; Dan Talmage, University of Oxford; Hugh Unwin, Sir Robert McAlpine Limited, ex University of Cambridge; Mark Volantini, University of Southampton, ex University of Cambridge, and Catherine Witt, BP Exploration, ex University of Oxford.

The prizes were awarded by Mr William Utley-Moore, CBE, FRSE, at a ceremony at the Academy's headquarters on Monday, December 12.

Dinners
Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

Mrs Anne Campbell, chairman of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, was the host at a dinner held last night at the House of Commons after a meeting of the committee when Mr John Collier FRSE, Sir Richard Morris and Mr Clive Bates spoke.

Baroness Sear, Chairman of the Administration Lead Body, was the guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators held last night at Guildhall.

Professor Stephen Bristow, president, was in the chair.

New date for Mayan civilisation

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE origins of ancient Maya civilisation in Central America have been pushed back more than a thousand years by recent discoveries in Belize. A series of finds, including stone tools and pollen from cultivated plants, suggests that farmers first settled the tropical forests of the Yucatan Peninsula soon after 3000 BC.

Maya civilisation, noted for the great temples and cities such as Tikal on Chichen Itza, flourished in Guatemala, Belize and southern Mexico between 400 BC and AD 1100. Until now, the first villages were dated to no earlier than 1200 BC, although occasional finds of stone tools suggested an earlier, perhaps transitory, human presence.

Investigations at Colha, a site in northern Belize first explored by a British Museum expedition in 1973, now indicate that farmers were living in the area by 2500 BC, and perhaps several centuries earlier. They do not seem to have used pottery, as the settlers at Colha and other early villages did a millennium later, but several kinds of stone tools

have been found. The earliest, identified by Thomas Kelly of the University of Texas, are broad-bladed spearheads with wide barbs, suitable for thrusting or throwing short distances. Animals such as deer and peccary, which could be tackled at close range in the jungle, are the likely targets, although the spears could also have been used as weapons.

These "Lowie Points" are dated between 2500 and 1900 BC, Mr Kelly says, and are succeeded by less bulky, but equally effective, spearheads. Around 1300 BC a unifacial tool, probably used as an adze or hoe, was employed at Colha.

A pollen core from the nearby Cobweb Swamp suggests that these early hunters were also farmers: maize pollen is found as early as 2800 BC, according to Professor Thomas R. Hester of the University of Texas, and manioc or cassava, a starchy root crop, is also represented by a single pollen grain.

Maya cultivation of manioc in the first millennium BC was confirmed recently by Dr Jon

Hather of University College London, showing that they had a more broadly-based subsistence economy than previously supposed: fruits and other forest products complemented maize, root crops, beans and squashes, with animal protein from hunting and from the flesh of domesticated dogs.

The stimulus to early Maya settlement seems to have been the late post-glacial rise in sea-level, which created a succession of rich swamp environments in lowland Belize; a similar process led to the development of Mesolithic societies in northern Europe between 10,000 and 5,000 years ago.

In the Maya area, the margins of wetlands were favoured places to live, and drainage ditches cut into the damp soil allowed extra crops to be grown during a period of stable sea-level. Later on, a further rise flooded the drained fields, and the Maya shifted the focus of their communities to the higher ridges, where the first temples were raised soon after 1000 BC.

Anniversaries

VI, reigned 1936-52. York Cottage, Sandringham, 1895; Paul Eluard, poet, Paris, 1895.

DEATHS: Sir John Oldcastle, alleged heretic, "hung and burnt hanging"; Leonard, 1917; King James V of Scotland, reigned 1513-42, Falkland, Fife, 1542; George Washington, 1st American President, 1789-97, Washington, 1799; Leon Faucher, statesman, Mar-

seilles, 1854; Albert, Prince Consort, Windsor Castle, 1861; George Hudson, the "railway king", London, 1871; Will Fyfe, character comedian, London, 1947; Sir African Religious Studies in the Department of Theology at Leeds University. (He will resign his present appointments on August 31, 1995 and take up his new post on September 1, 1995.)

seilles, 1854; Albert, Prince Consort, Windsor Castle, 1861; George Hudson, the "railway king", London, 1871; Will Fyfe, character comedian, London, 1947; Sir African Religious Studies in the Department of Theology at Leeds University. (He will resign his present appointments on August 31, 1995 and take up his new post on September 1, 1995.)

Parliamentary Carol Service

The Prime Minister was represented by Mr Anthony Newman, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons, who read the sixth lesson at a parliamentary carol service held yesterday in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, in aid of the Westminster Medical School Research Trust.

Canon Donald Gray, Chaplain to the Speaker, officiated. The Rev Steve Pearce, Free Church Chaplain of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, read the Christmas hymn prayer. The Rev Bernard Hughes and the Rev Philip Allen, Anglican and Roman Catholic Chaplains of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, led the prayers.

Lady Barber, Chairman of the Palace of Westminster All-Party Ladies' Committee, led the first lesson. Sir Paul Gillingham read the second lesson. Professor Roger Greenhalgh, Dean of the Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, read the third lesson. Mrs Diana Maddock, MP, Liberal Democrat, read the fourth lesson and Mr Tony Blair, Leader of HM Opposition, read the fifth lesson.

The Rev Jonathan Goodall, Chaplain and Sacrist of Westminster Abbey, the Rev Philip Chester and the Rev Peter Cowell, Priest Vicars of St Margaret's, were robed and in the Sanctuary.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr H.A. Acland and Miss D.F. Chissell
The engagement is announced between Harry, son of Mr and Mrs David Acland, of Nottgrove, Gloucestershire, and Diana, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Tom Chissell, of Cowgrove, near Wimborne, Dorset.

Mr B.S. Coppins and Miss J.M. Thomas
The engagement is announced between Benjamin Stephen, elder son of Mr Frank Coppins, of Burnham on Crouch, Essex, and Joanna Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Thomas, of Willand Old Village, Devon.

Mr D.O.M. Haslam and Miss C.E.J. Pope
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr Michael and the Hon Mrs Haslam, of The Orangerie, Egham, Surrey, and Emma, second daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel J.B. Pope and of Mrs J.B. Pope of Upton Grove, Tebury, Gloucestershire.

Mr J.W.H. Thompson and Miss C.H. Kerrison
The engagement is announced between James, only son of Mrs E.M. Thompson and the late Mr Peter Thompson, of Bridgford, Shropshire, and Claire, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Kerrison, of Haddiscoe, Norfolk.

Luncheon

HM Government
The Hon Douglas Hogg, QC, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House in honour of Mr Abdullah bin Mohamed bin Aged Al Dhahab, Ambassador of Oman.

Eton College
Eton College closes today. In the final of the House of Commons Mr C.W. Milner's defeated Mr A.C.D. Gram-Campbell's by two goals to one. School opens for the Lent Half on Wednesday, January 11.

Church news
Appointments
The Rev Paul Smith, Rector, Bideford (Exeter) to be also a Prebend of Exeter Cathedral.

The Rev Philip Street, Vicar, Gosport Church and Quairing and Assistant Local Ministry Officer in the diocese of Lincoln: to be Vicar, St Paul's, Buttershaw, Bradford (Bradford).

The Rev Judith Thompson, Chaplain Assistant, Southdown Hospital, and Honorary Deacon, St Aidan, Bristol: to be Assistant Curate (part-time) with the title Assistant Priest, St Barnabas, Knowle (Bristol).

The Rev Dr Ross Thompson, Vicar, St Aidan, W. St George, Bristol: to be Priest-in-charge, St Barnabas, Knowle (Bristol).

The Rev James Trevelyan, Rector, Honiton Team Ministry (Exeter) to be also a Prebend of Exeter Cathedral.

The Rev Dr Kevin Ward, Priest-in-charge, St Thomas, Claremont, Lecturer at Halifax parish church and Diocesan Area Link Officer (Walsley) to be Lecturer in African Religious Studies in the Department of Theology at Leeds University. (He will resign his present appointments on August 31, 1995 and take up his new post on September 1, 1995.)

The Rev Dr Kevin Ward, Priest-in-charge, St Thomas, Claremont, Lecturer at Halifax parish church and Diocesan Area Link Officer (Walsley) to be Lecturer in African Religious Studies in the Department of Theology at Leeds University. (He will resign his present appointments on August 31, 1995 and take up his new post on September 1, 1995.)

The Rev Dr Kevin Ward, Priest-in-charge, St Thomas, Claremont, Lecturer at Halifax parish church and Diocesan Area Link Officer (Walsley) to be Lecturer in African Religious Studies in the Department of Theology at Leeds University. (He will resign his present appointments on August 31, 1995 and take up his new post on September 1, 1995.)

The Rev Dr Kevin Ward, Priest-in-charge, St Thomas, Claremont, Lecturer at Halifax parish church and Diocesan Area Link Officer (Walsley) to be Lecturer in African Religious Studies in the Department of Theology at Leeds University. (He will resign his present appointments on August 31, 1995 and take up his new post on September 1, 1995.)

The Rev Dr Kevin Ward, Priest-in-charge, St Thomas, Claremont, Lecturer at Halifax parish church and Diocesan Area Link Officer (Walsley) to be Lecturer in African Religious Studies in the Department of Theology at Leeds University. (He will resign his present appointments on August 31, 1995 and take up his new post on September 1, 1995.)

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

Draw near to me and hear: I have never spoken to secret, and at its time of fulfillment I was there.
Isiah 49: 16 (GEB)

BIRTHS

ALABASTER - On December 10th at Salisbury Hospital, to Felicity (née Danks) and Simon, a daughter, 2nd Charlotte Margaret.

ANDREWS - On 6th December 1994, to Catherine (née Meadows) and Guy, a beautiful daughter, Georgia.

COSTER - On December 10th 1994, to Katherine (née Leach) and David, a beautiful baby boy, Oliver.

DAUGAS - On Sunday 27th November 1994, at Chelsea Neve Centre de de la Ferté, St Raphael, France, to Tish (née Montgomery) and John, a beautiful baby boy, John.

QUEST - On 28th November at University College Hospital, to Jessica (née White) and Lydia Grace, a daughter.

KALLISTOS - On December 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Adam and George, a son.

MAHON - On December 10th, to Sophie (née Patten) and James, a son, Harry John.

MEDICAL - On December 12th, to David (née Conn) and Michael, a beautiful baby boy, David.

OSBORN - On December 2nd 1994, to Mandy (née O'Connell) and Michael, a son, Christopher Michael.

O'NEILL - On 7th December, to Jessica and Trevor, a daughter, Catherine Frances Rose.

RAINFORD - On December 10th, to Maria (née Pugh) and Peter, a daughter, Nicola Karen Alexandra, a sister for Sarah.

BIRTHS

SALVESON - On November 30th, to Katherine (née Rose) and Jeremy, a son, Toby Christian, a brother for Oliver.

SEYMOUR-WILLIAMS - On December 11th, at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Stewart) and John, a son, John.

SYMONS - On December 10th, to Helen (née Sainsbury) and Peter, a son, Tom.

TRIGGS - On 7th December at St. Richard's, a son, James Richard Spiller.

WESSON - On 29th November, to Amanda and Kevin, a 7th son daughter and sister to Thomas, Alice Emily.

DEATHS
ACTON DAVIS - On 9th December, Michael James, just before his 78th birthday, beloved husband of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Davis, a son, Nicholas and daughter, Catherine.

KALLISTOS - On December 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Adam and George, a son.

MAHON - On December 10th, to Sophie (née Patten) and James, a son, Harry John.

MEDICAL - On December 12th, to David (née Conn) and Michael, a beautiful baby boy, David.

OSBORN - On December 2nd 1994, to Mandy (née O'Connell) and Michael, a son, Christopher Michael.

O'NEILL - On 7th December, to Jessica and Trevor, a daughter, Catherine Frances Rose.

RAINFORD - On December 10th, to Maria (née Pugh) and Peter, a daughter, Nicola Karen Alexandra, a sister for Sarah.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - On 9th December 1994, Victoria Maria (Vivian) aged 73 years of London. Daughter of the late Mr. J. Campbell and Mrs. A. Campbell. Buried at St. Paul's Church, London.

SEYMOUR-WILLIAMS - On December 11th, at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Stewart) and John, a son, John.

SYMONS - On December 10th, to Helen (née Sainsbury) and Peter, a son, Tom.

TRIGGS - On 7th December at St. Richard's, a son, James Richard Spiller.

WESSON - On 29th November, to Amanda and Kevin, a 7th son daughter and sister to Thomas, Alice Emily.

DEATHS
ACTON DAVIS - On 9th December, Michael James, just before his 78th birthday, beloved husband of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Davis, a son, Nicholas and daughter, Catherine.

KALLISTOS - On December 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Adam and George, a son.

MAHON - On December 10th, to Sophie (née Patten) and James, a son, Harry John.

MEDICAL - On December 12th, to David (née Conn) and Michael, a beautiful baby boy, David.

OSBORN - On December 2nd 1994, to Mandy (née O'Connell) and Michael, a son, Christopher Michael.

O'NEILL - On 7th December, to Jessica and Trevor, a daughter, Catherine Frances Rose.

RAINFORD - On December 10th, to Maria (née Pugh) and Peter, a daughter, Nicola Karen Alexandra, a sister for Sarah.

DEATHS

FISHER - On December 9th, at his home, 12, St. Paul's Church, London. Son of the late Mr. J. Fisher and Mrs. A. Fisher. Buried at St. Paul's Church, London.

SEYMOUR-WILLIAMS - On December 11th, at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Stewart) and John, a son, John.

SYMONS - On December 10th, to Helen (née Sainsbury) and Peter, a son, Tom.

TRIGGS - On 7th December at St. Richard's, a son, James Richard Spiller.

WESSON - On 29th November, to Amanda and Kevin, a 7th son daughter and sister to Thomas, Alice Emily.

DEATHS
ACTON DAVIS - On 9th December, Michael James, just before his 78th birthday, beloved husband of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Davis, a son, Nicholas and daughter, Catherine.

KALLISTOS - On December 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Adam and George, a son.

MAHON - On December 10th, to Sophie (née Patten) and James, a son, Harry John.

MEDICAL - On December 12th, to David (née Conn) and Michael, a beautiful baby boy, David.

OSBORN - On December 2nd 1994, to Mandy (née O'Connell) and Michael, a son, Christopher Michael.

O'NEILL - On 7th December, to Jessica and Trevor, a daughter, Catherine Frances Rose.

RAINFORD - On December 10th, to Maria (née Pugh) and Peter, a daughter, Nicola Karen Alexandra, a sister for Sarah.

DEATHS

LETCHWORTH - On December 9th, at his home, 12, St. Paul's Church, London. Son of the late Mr. J. Letchworth and Mrs. A. Letchworth. Buried at St. Paul's Church, London.

SEYMOUR-WILLIAMS - On December 11th, at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Stewart) and John, a son, John.

SYMONS - On December 10th, to Helen (née Sainsbury) and Peter, a son, Tom.

TRIGGS - On 7th December at St. Richard's, a son, James Richard Spiller.

WESSON - On 29th November, to Amanda and Kevin, a 7th son daughter and sister to Thomas, Alice Emily.

DEATHS
ACTON DAVIS - On 9th December, Michael James, just before his 78th birthday, beloved husband of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Davis, a son, Nicholas and daughter, Catherine.

KALLISTOS - On December 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Adam and George, a son.

MAHON - On December 10th, to Sophie (née Patten) and James, a son, Harry John.

MEDICAL - On December 12th, to David (née Conn) and Michael, a beautiful baby boy, David.

OSBORN - On December 2nd 1994, to Mandy (née O'Connell) and Michael, a son, Christopher Michael.

O'NEILL - On 7th December, to Jessica and Trevor, a daughter, Catherine Frances Rose.

RAINFORD - On December 10th, to Maria (née Pugh) and Peter, a daughter, Nicola Karen Alexandra, a sister for Sarah.

DEATHS

MORRIS - On December 12th, at his home, 12, St. Paul's Church, London. Son of the late Mr. J. Morris and Mrs. A. Morris. Buried at St. Paul's Church, London.

SEYMOUR-WILLIAMS - On December 11th, at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Stewart) and John, a son, John.

SYMONS - On December 10th, to Helen (née Sainsbury) and Peter, a son, Tom.

TRIGGS - On 7th December at St. Richard's, a son, James Richard Spiller.

WESSON - On 29th November, to Amanda and Kevin, a 7th son daughter and sister to Thomas, Alice Emily.

DEATHS
ACTON DAVIS - On 9th December, Michael James, just before his 78th birthday, beloved husband of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Davis, a son, Nicholas and daughter, Catherine.

KALLISTOS - On December 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Adam and George, a son.

MAHON - On December 10th, to Sophie (née Patten) and James, a son, Harry John.

MEDIA 32

BBC1 controller takes on the lottery critics

ARTS 33-35

Books and battles: a review of the literary year

SPORT 39-44

Can Vinnie Jones put the squeeze on Stoichkov?

BARGAINS DURING CHRISTMAS
Homes 38

THE TIMES

2

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14 1994

Clinton offers US expertise to help rebuild Ulster



By NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN and America last night signed an agreement to link businesses in Northern Ireland with American research and development projects and to give firms in the Province greater access to technology networks in America.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Ron Brown, the American Commerce Secretary, who launched the venture in Belfast, said it would boost industrial wealth in Ulster. They were speaking at the opening of an International Investment Forum in Belfast, the largest conference of its kind to be held in Northern Ireland. Nearly 300 dele-

gates from Europe, America and the Far East will attend the two-day conference, which is designed to increase inward investment in Northern Ireland in the wake of the IRA and loyalist ceasefires.

Sir Patrick hailed the agreement with America as an example of President Clinton's commitment to the peace process. It would, he said, give industrialists in Northern Ireland a unique opportunity to plug into America's extensive technology networks, adding: "They will be able to study the various US approaches to commercially-driven collaboration between industry and academia; the use of research to increase economic competitiveness; and the development and marketing of new

products by small and medium-sized industry."

The US Commerce Department's Technology Administration and the Northern Ireland Department of Economic Development's Industrial Research and Technology Unit will establish a working group that will report to President Clinton's investment conference on Ireland in Philadelphia next April. The programme will see scientists and businessmen from Northern Ireland seconded to American companies for training.

Mr Brown said: "This programme will expedite the transfer of advanced business skills to Ireland and, we hope, build business relationships between US and Northern

Ireland companies that will support long-term, mutually beneficial relationships."

In speeches in Belfast and Londonderry yesterday, Mr Brown told business leaders that America wanted to lift people in Northern Ireland out of the "cycle of conflict and despair" and to help build "the infrastructure of peace" through economic growth in a new era of reconciliation.

Mr Brown said that President Clinton has asked him to draw up a strategic plan to speed economic growth in Northern Ireland and in the Irish Republic's border counties. He said that his plan would build on the example of 40 American companies that have invested \$850

million in Northern Ireland in the past five years, supporting 9,000 jobs. Mr Brown yesterday visited Seagate Technology, a US maker of disc drives that has opened a plant in Londonderry. He paid tribute to the "high-tech, growth oriented firms creating good jobs and building a scientific community."

The Commerce Secretary, who will also visit businesses in the Irish Republic after the conference, is leading a team of Congressmen and American business leaders. He said: "This delegation represents the depth of the Clinton Administration's commitment. Together, we have enough experience and expertise to put together a comprehensive picture of the Irish economy."

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
FT-SE 100	2948.4	(+3.0)
Yield	4.37%	
FT-SE All share	1498.10	(+0.51)
Nikkei	18876.48	(+99.62)
New York		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.67)
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	7.57%	(7.55%)
EUROSTOCK EXCHANGES		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
NEW YORK		
Dow Jones	3721.38	(+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14	(+1.

Lloyd's names face bills over next 20 years



Sturge: pessimistic forecast

BY SARAH BAGNALL
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LLOYD'S OF LONDON names may face bills for up to £10.2 billion over the next 10 to 20 years to meet the cost of insurance policies written in the past, according to Chaset, the independent Lloyd's analyst.

The estimate of future losses on open syndicate years compares with £8.6 billion last year and £5 billion in 1992. The figures are drawn from an analysis of syndicates that have been unable to close years of accounts through reinsuring because their future claims are unquantifiable. Syndicates with exposure to latent liability claims — asbestosis, pollution and health hazards — are predominately those with years left

open. The number of syndicates with open years has risen sharply from 163 at the end of 1991, to 317 at the end of 1992 and 476 at the end of 1993.

The £10.2 billion is the amount Chaset believes is needed to bolster these syndicates' reserves to meet future claims. Its figures assume that the losses will be called annually over the next 20 years. If the cash were to be called earlier the sum would be discounted substantially.

Charles Sturge, co-editor of Chaset, said: "Latent liability accounts for two thirds of all future deterioration and remains the major factor. Sadly there doesn't seem to be any end to it."

Lloyd's said Chaset's estimate failed to take into account the Equitas project. This is the insurance com-

pany being set up, into which all 1985 and prior year liabilities will be reinsured. It will be able to commutate claims, so the amount of reserves the company will need will be less than its outstanding liabilities. A Lloyd's spokesman said: "The figures presented by Chaset could be a scenario if Equitas is not put in place. But the Equitas project is going forward as planned."

Mr Sturge admitted the under-reserving figure did not take Equitas into account, saying: "These figures could be substantially discounted if the cash is called now, rather than annually as the need for additional reserves arises. This is one of Equitas's great strengths as it can use existing reserves to discount the claims on the open years." He added

that until completion of Equitas names should not face any new demands for cash.

A breakdown of the £10.2 billion reveals the growing problem of bad debts arising from insurance company collapses. Chaset puts the cost at £800 million.

Chaset estimates that Lionover, the vehicle set up by Lloyd's to deal with losses arising from the PCW syndicates, will need further reserves of £500 million. Under-reserving for latent liability claims is put at £6.3 billion, general liability claims at £981 million and personal stop loss and estate protection plan claims at £331.9 million. The balance is made up of catastrophe, agents' errors and omissions' insurance and general insurance claims.

Burden on BAe eased by Airbus financing

FROM ROSS TIEMAN IN TOULOUSE

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE has raised \$1.5 billion to create its own aircraft finance company and relieve growing pressure on the balance sheets of its four partner companies.

Airbus Finance Company will fund the purchase of aircraft by airlines from the European plane-makers' consortium. The new finance arm is designed to enable the group to overtake its arch-rival Boeing to become the world's biggest plane-maker.

AFC will aim to achieve an A1 or A-plus credit rating in its own right within four to six years, freeing the Airbus partners, including British Aerospace, from liability for its borrowings thereafter.

Once a strong credit rating is achieved, AFC hopes to issue bonds backed by aircraft in its portfolio, so as to develop a new market in "securitised" debt. At the same time, Airbus hopes to consolidate its existing portfolio of leased aircraft, now worth about \$4 billion.

The strategy was outlined by Tony Rice, acting chief executive, at a briefing in Toulouse yesterday. Although the European plane-building consortium had sought only \$1 billion, the partners, including British Aerospace, decided to take up an extra \$500 million after the facility, arranged by JP Morgan and backed by 49 banks, was 2.3 times subscribed.

AFC, to be based in Dublin, will buy aircraft from the assembly lines in Toulouse and lease them to airlines. Because it will enable the consortium partners, British Aerospace, Aerospaciale of France, Deutsche Aerospace and Casa of Spain, to share responsibility for its liabilities between them, it will reduce by a quarter the liability that falls on the four partner companies in the Airbus consortium. BAe, a 20 per cent partner in Airbus, is at present exposed to the entire risk of the consortium's \$4 billion leasing book of 55 planes.

Because the partners are jointly and severally liable, each has a comparable exposure to the full risk, although strong second-hand demand for Airbus planes has avoided any need for provisions. The existing risk will continue until the present lease portfolio can be transferred into AFC as leases mature.

By creating Airbus Finance, the partners have, in effect, cut future demands on their balance sheets by a quarter at a time when leasing is becoming an increasingly popular way for airlines to acquire planes.

Airbus Finance is expected to grow into a substantial leasing company in its own right, and will help Airbus to resist pressure for big discounts on aircraft purchases from specialist leasing companies.

An Airbus spokesman said: "It will give us greater flexibility and enable us to do deals we

could not previously do because the balance sheets of our partners would not support it."

However, Airbus salesmen would seek to use more conventional financing options, including sales and other leasing companies, before taking extra business on the books of Airbus Finance, he said.

"AFC must not be seen as a first stop, nor as a last resort," he said. "We do have to explore all the other options first."

The need to contain the leasing exposure is exacerbated by the increasing size and complexity of Airbus planes. Since the launch of the first Airbus, the A300, in 1974, Airbus has progressively developed larger and more complex aircraft. The A320 twin-jet, launched six years ago, costs \$47 million. The latest plane, the four-engined A340, introduced this year, has a price tag of \$100 million.

With 1,200 planes in service, and 600 on order, Airbus also knows that it must ensure that residual values remain firm.

Airbus Finance will be based in Dublin to benefit from tax breaks in the Irish Republic. It will be chaired by Francois Augue, finance director of Aerospaciale. Tony Rice, group treasurer of BAe, will be acting chief executive. The board will include the finance directors of each partner company: Richard Laphorne (BAe), Wolfgang Piller (Deutsche Aerospace), and Enrique Rovira (Casa).



Peter Greenall, left, and Andrew Thomas, chairman and chief executive of Greenalls

Greenalls developing wholesaler for beer

BY NEIL BENNETT
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

GREENALLS, the pubs, restaurants and hotels group, is building a nationwide beer wholesaling business by rapidly acquiring local firms. The group hopes that the business will generate cash to invest in its growing pub chain.

The group yesterday disclosed that in the 53 weeks to September 30, it spent £3.5 million on buying beer wholesalers to expand its Tavern Wholesaling business, and has made two further acquisitions since. Peter Greenall, managing director, said he hoped that the business would be fully national by the end of 1995.

The growth of the wholesaling business lifted operating profits of the drinks and leisure division by 33 per cent to £8.4 million in the period.

This helped overall pre-tax profits to rise 10 per cent, to £7.8 million, even though Greenalls was held back by one-off costs of closing Cambrian, its soft drinks manufacturing arm and other rationalisation totalling £13.3 million. Operating profits rose by 36 per cent, to £122 million, in the year, due mainly to the first full contribution by Devenish, the West Country pubs group acquired last year.

The final dividend is 7.7p, due on February 24, making 13.1p, up by 6 per cent.

After pressure from City investors, Greenalls disclosed that Devenish contributed £24.5 million to profits. Excluding this, operating profits from the group's pubs rose by 8 per cent, while its restaurants division increased profits by 35 per cent.

Food sales rose by 9.4 per cent in the pubs and by almost 14 per cent in Premier House, the group's pub/restaurant division.

Managers' pay is drifting higher

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

SALARY rises for managers are edging upwards as pay freezes in industry are ending, a new survey shows.

The Government will today publish figures on average earnings increases along with the latest unemployment and jobs figures, and City analysts say the current underlying average of 3.75 per cent is likely to nudge upwards.

Incomes Data Services, the pay analysts, say managerial pay awards averaged 3.5 per cent in the three months to October, compared with 2.7 per cent in the same period a year ago. The level of increase is also up on the 3.1 per cent rises in managerial pay recorded by IDS's Management Pay Review for the previous quarter of this year.

Managers in the finance sector are leading the increase, with average rises running at 4.5 per cent, followed by 3.3 per cent in manufacturing industry, 3.1 per cent in service businesses and 2.9 per cent in the public sector.

Michael Porillo, the Employment Secretary, should announce a fundamental review of the Government's adult training provisions, a jobs pressure group says. The independent Employment Policy Institute says the cut in the Government's funding for adult training announced in the Budget "sits uneasily" with the jobs package unveiled at the same time. The Chancellor had failed to provide sufficient resources, it said.

The Department of Employment confirmed a report in *The Times* that the Government is looking at ways of reconciling the department's two principal measures of employment — one of which is showing that the number of jobs is still declining while the other suggests it is rising.

Elisabeth Wille, chairman of the board of directors, declined to say how much money was involved in the alleged irregularities, but indicated that the damage to trust and confidence in the bourse was more important than the financial aspects of the case.

Oslo bourse director found dead

THE director of the Oslo bourse, sacked on Monday for mixing his private finances with those of the stock exchange, was yesterday found dead off the shore of the resort near Oslo where he had a summer cottage (Colin Narborough writes).

Police said the body of Erik Jarve, who had been head of the bourse since 1977, was found a few hundred metres from the water's edge. No cause of death was given.

The bourse said in a statement that it profoundly regretted the personal tragedy of a man who had been a "tremendous resource" for the exchange for 25 years. He was credited with modernising the once sleepy exchange's trading operations.

Elisabeth Wille, chairman of the board of directors, declined to say how much money was involved in the alleged irregularities, but indicated that the damage to trust and confidence in the bourse was more important than the financial aspects of the case.

Hotels help Vaux to strong recovery

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

SIR PAUL NICHOLSON, chairman of Vaux Group, views the future with "measured optimism" after a strong recovery in hotels helped the Sunderland brewing, hotels and nursing homes group to a 13.2 per cent advance in full year profits.

Pre-tax profits climbed to £29.3 million in the year to September 30, against £25.9 million last time, on turnover ahead to £243.5 million (£234.9 million).

Sir Paul was critical of "totally misconceived" government Beer Orders on pub rationalisation, which had destabilised the brewing industry, and said the Chancellor's mini-Budget decision to raise duty on drinks was "really shattering" and "unbelievably short-sighted".

He added that cross-Channel racketeers were having a limited but adverse impact on the group, with "bootleg beer" possibly taking away up to 3 per cent of the group's trade.

"There is a major black economy industry," he said, adding that some "gangsters" were forcing pub owners to delay opening pubs so that illegal transactions could take place in car parks.

Vaux's traditional brewing and pubs business was flat, but this was more than offset by a strong recovery at Swallow Hotels, where profits rose 15.4 per cent. The opening of new nursing homes helped profits from St Andrews Homes to jump 21.7 per cent.

Hotel occupancy rates rose 3 per cent in the period, while room rates edged up 1 per cent. Sir Paul said the strong recovery had continued, with occupancy rates up 6 per cent since the year end and room rates ahead 4 per cent. He criticised banks for damaging the hotel industry by subsidising uneconomic companies.

The total dividend is raised to 9.85p (9.5p), with a 6.5p final payout, from earnings up to 16.5p (14.75p) a share. The shares rose 2p to 229p.

David S. Smith surges as paper recovers

BY OUR CITY STAFF



Peter Williams, the chief executive at David S. Smith

ALAN CLEMENTS, chairman at David S. Smith, said future prospects for the paper and packaging group were "excellent" as he and Peter Williams, chief executive, unveiled a near doubling in pre-tax profits to £40.4 million in the six months to October 29.

The interim dividend, payable on March 13, was lifted to 4.25p from 2.75p, although this rise was flattened by a change in the balance between the payments. Earnings per share rose from 9.3p to 20.4p. The shares rose 1p to 499p.

Profits benefited from the

upturn in paper markets, better returns from the rebuilt Kemsley paper mill and the elimination of unfair competition in waste paper markets.

Mr Clements said: "The recovery in paper markets has been more rapid than might have been anticipated and has allowed us to go some way to restoring margins."

The rise in pre-tax profits from £13.7 million to £40.4 million was achieved on the back of a 41 per cent rise in sales to £475.4 million. Operating margins improved from 5.8 per cent to 9.6 per cent in

spite of increases of nearly 50 per cent in paper and polymer prices.

The price increases put pressure on packaging margins, the group's largest division. The group said it expected further large price rises to come, making it essential to lift selling prices. Erosion of margins was avoided because of cost reductions. The division lifted operating profits from £15.6 million to £36.2 million on sales up from £266 million to £318.7 million.

Tempos, page 26

BUSINESS ROUND

Coats Viyella to sell carpets division

COATS Viyella said it has reached an agreement in principle for the proposed sale of its carpets division to Shaw Industries of America for an undisclosed sum. The transaction is subject to approval by the boards of directors of both companies, and to the negotiation of agreements and any necessary government filings. Final terms will be disclosed on completion which is expected at some point during the new year.

On November 10, 1994, Coats Viyella announced the appointment of Baring Brothers to advise on the sale of its yarns and fabrics and carpets division. The division as a whole has current annual sales of more than £100 million on 1993 year-end assets employed of £30 million. Neville Bain, the chief executive of Coats Viyella, said: "This sale will allow the group to focus its energies on its core businesses, and invest further in serving our customers in both established and emerging textile markets." Coats Viyella shares rose on yesterday's news from 189p to 190p. Tempos, page 26

British Gas looks east

BRITISH GAS has held talks with four local oil firms about possible oil and gas exploration in the Philippine Islands, officials of the Manila government said yesterday. British Gas representatives had met executives of state-owned Philippine National Oil Co, South China Petroleum, Petrofields Corp and Cophill Corp, and British Gas experts are due in Manila next month to assess petroleum data, and perhaps form joint ventures with local oil companies, officials said. British Gas last month agreed an oil joint venture in the islands.

Minister's warning

BRITISH companies were warned yesterday against contracts involving forced labour in Myanmar — formerly Burma. Baroness Chalker, Foreign Office Minister of State, said such deals would attract "not only criticism, but also condemnation". The country's State Law and Order Restoration Council regime was accused by Baroness Cox of "torture, murder, forced labour and forced relocation". The main victims, the Karen people who fought alongside the British in the Second World War, were now "trapped in the jungle".

Berkeley builds profits

A MOVE upmarket helped Berkeley Group, the Surrey housebuilder, to a 40 per cent advance in first half profits despite little improvement in the overall level of house prices. Pre-tax profit jumped to £17.8 million in the six months to October 31 in spite of a small drop in unit sales. Turnover grew to £123.7 million (£103.9 million).

The interim dividend is raised 10.5 per cent to 2.1p (1.9p), from earnings ahead 40 per cent to 15.4p (11p) a share. Net cash stood at £10 million. The shares eased 1p to 329p.

Goldsborough advances

GOLDSBOROUGH Healthcare, the nursing homes, hospitals and homecare group, kept to its flotation forecast with a 130 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to £5.3 million in the year to October 2. The shares rose 4p to 148p, against the March flotation price of 170p a share. The group also announced the acquisition of two nursing homes and a sheltered housing management company for £4.9 million. The final dividend is 2.3p, 5 per cent ahead of that indicated at the time of the flotation, to be paid out of earnings of 13p a share (7.1p).

TBI in £24m deal

TBI, the property company formerly known as Markheath, proposes to pay £24.1 million for a portfolio of 11 properties. The deal will be funded by the issue of up to 27.98 million ordinary shares at 40p, a 9.6 per cent premium to the share price immediately before the exchange of contracts. The main vendor is Peter Thomas, brother of Stanley Thomas, TBI's deputy chairman. The portfolio, with gross yield of 8.4 per cent, is independently valued at £24.1 million. TBI will assume £12.9 million of bank debt relating to the properties.

Sheriff doubles profit

ORGANIC growth and acquisitions helped Sheriff Holdings, the USM-quoted plant hire group, to more than double pre-tax profits in the year to September 30, to £3.6 million (£1.7 million). Turnover advanced 58 per cent to £20.2 million. Richard Dunn, chairman, is optimistic about prospects for the current year, with improving market conditions as construction activity rises. The total dividend is 5.75p (£3.75p) for the year, with a 4p final payout, from earnings of 23.9p (11.5p) a share. Gearing stood at 32 per cent (18 per cent).

First Technology ahead

SHARES in First Technology rose 22p to 352p after the automotive safety specialist company announced a sharp rise in interim profits and issued an upbeat statement on current trading. In the half-year to end-October, pre-tax profits rose to £2.8 million from £1.76 million and earnings improved to 11.7p a share from 7.36p. The interim dividend is increased to 2.8p a share from 1p. Although turnover rose only marginally to £16.4 million from £16 million, operating profits advanced to £2.82 million from £1.84 million.

Triplex Lloyd rises

TRIPLEX Lloyd, the automotive components and engineering company, has held the interim dividend at 2.5p a share, as profits continued to recover in the six months to end-September. At the taxable level, profits rose to £25.5 million from £14.5 million and earnings increased to 2.8p a share from 1.6p. The order book has risen to £67.5 million from £46.3 million year-on-year. In the year to end-March, the company incurred losses of £2.92 million after writing off £3.87 million against disposals.

Whessoe in the red

LOSSES at Whessoe, the engineering company, were £200,000 before tax in the year to end-September as a result of difficult trading in the piplog systems division, sold last month to Prospect Industries for £11.65 million. There was a loss per share of 3.76p for the period and, as previously announced, there is no final dividend, leaving a total of 2.3p a share for the year. In the previous year, profits were £7.14 million before tax and earnings were 18.8p a share. The total dividend was 8.2p.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buyers	Sellers
Australia \$	2.12	1.88
Austria Sch	18.28	18.78
Belgium Fr	33.80	49.30
Canada \$	2.578	2.116
Cyprus Cyp	0.790	0.725
Denmark Kr	10.24	9.44
Finland Mk	8.26	7.58
France Fr	6.25	6.25
Germany Dm	2.61	2.40
Greece Dr	400.00	375.00
Hong Kong \$	12.74	11.74
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.98
Italy Lire	2665.00	2610.00
Japan Yen	170.50	154.50
Malta	0.624	0.599
Netherlands Gld	2.971	2.571
Norway Kr	11.32	10.52
Portugal Esc	282.50	244.00
S Africa Rd	0.35	0.35
Spain Ptas	213.50	198.50
Sweden Kr	12.43	11.83
Switzerland Fr	2.21	2.03
Turkey Lira	ref	54101.0
USA \$	1.860	1.530

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay's Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE TIMES ACCOUNTANCY AND FINANCE

APPEARS IN THE BUSINESS NEWS PAGES
EVERY THURSDAY, TO ADVERTISE
TELEPHONE ADRIAN CRIBB
TEL: 071-481 4481 FAX: 071-782 7826

□ At last, a real manufacturer □ Who's with the Woolwich and allied with Leicester? □ Maurice's super options

It'll be Albright on the night

IN its current lachrymose state, the equity market is hardly in the mood for new issues and flotation sponsors need the equivalent of a phosphorous bomb to create enough interest to underwrite an issue at a half-decent price. Fund managers have naturally become wary of brokers bearing new issues, since they have recently been stuffed with too many high-tech, low profit losers that could never live up to the extravagant claims in their prospectuses.

Into the midst of this cold war of mutual distrust comes Albright & Wilson, the chemicals group, which Tenneco hopes to float for around £600 million, a figure that equates to its turnover. The word that Tenneco wanted to sell its only chemical business has been doing the rounds in the Square Mile and it seems that having failed to find a trade buyer, the group now hopes to jettison the business onto the stock market.

Floating off unwanted subsidiaries may seem like yesterday's game. It was played effectively and profitably by a gaggle of businesses earlier this year, including Forte, BTR and Hanson who all needed to reduce gearing and could not find any trade buyers rich or brave enough to oblige.

But as share prices have slipped and new issues have

bombed, the City has tired of this corporate car boot sale. There are indications, however, that Tenneco may well get away with floating Albright, even though it looks a large mouthful for a weakened and wary market to swallow.

The trend is your friend as every jaded investor reminds himself. In this case the trend is Tenneco's broker's best mate, since the cyclical recovery in the chemicals market is doing wonders for chemical company profits, and there is nothing like a strongly rising earnings line to excite investors. The recovery came just in time for ICI and EniChem to float EVC, the PVC manufacturer as a profitable business. Brunner Mond, another ICI orphan, is also reported to be planning to surf the cyclical recovery onto the stock market sometime in the New Year.

To be fair, Albright's phosphates and surfactants businesses are less cyclical than bulk chemical and petrochemical businesses. The company has been able to pass on the recent hike in raw material prices to its

customers in the food and soap multinationals. Surfactants are a high growth product since they are used in an increasing number of industrial and agricultural applications in addition to their traditional role of putting bubbles in your bath.

It may be premature, but the Birmingham company promises to be a rare bird among flotations: a solid manufacturing business with markets worldwide and a strong reputation. Hard to believe, but a welcome change from the theme restaurants and bio-tech whizz-kidology that infected the market at the start of the year.

Building bigger societies

BUILDING society mergers are developing an etiquette all of their own and it goes something like this. The building society rumoured to be in talks categorically denies it is talking to anyone. But in order not to make it sound like such a barefaced fib, the spokesperson then adds that the society has always been interested



in a suitable merger if one can be found. The latest "hot" rumours include a merger between the Woolwich and the Bradford & Bingley and a bank to make a bid for the Alliance & Leicester. NatWest has been mentioned as the bank, but there the trail runs cold. The possibility of a merger between the Woolwich and Bradford & Bingley has more substance, however. The Woolwich, which admits to having had preliminary merger talks with the Leeds before the Halifax deal, is in the process of cleaning up its mailing list. This has always been regarded as a prelude to a major announcement. The Woolwich says it has a new computer system and anyway, the Building Societies Com-

mission asked for the mailing list to be cleaned up. A spokesman says: "I can categorically deny that we are in merger talks with any society or other institution." He added: "We have never denied that we would be in favour of a north/south marriage."

Another tell-tale sign is that Bradford & Bingley recently recruited John Wriglesworth, the former building society analyst from UBS, the broker, to the newly created post of head of corporate strategy. Corporate strategy chiefs do deals, and a building society would not hire a dog without wanting it to bark. A spokesman said yesterday:

"This [merger talk] is pure speculation. There are no talks taking place with the Woolwich." He concluded by adding: "We will, however, continue to look at possible mergers with other societies."

Sounds familiar. Perhaps someone has sold rights to the script. But remember, right until the time it was bounced into making a premature announcement, the Halifax denied that it was in talks with the Leeds

Permanent. It also insisted that mutuality was a cause so dear to its heart that it would never consider renouncing it.

Insecurity at Saatchi

Even Americans, so it would seem, find remuneration, UK-style, hard to swallow. Saatchi & Saatchi has now replaced British Gas in the public gaze, a key bone of contention being the company's "super option scheme" which, should it ever see the light of day, (unlikely) threatens chairman Maurice Saatchi with a £5 million profit. Such a reward would be dependent on Saatchi & Saatchi's share price doubling over three years. One of the quirks of Saatchi's scheme is that Mr Saatchi's allocation is based on his former salary of £625,000 rather than his current crust of £200,000.

No such proposals have, as yet, reached shareholders but certain institutions have been "sounded out." The sounding out of Harris Associates of Chicago was clearly a wise precaution,

the apoplectic response being (a) that Mr Saatchi's option allocation should be scaled back (b) the Plc should drop the "Saatchi" name and (c) Mr Saatchi should grace the board of the operating subsidiary which bears his name, rather than the parent company.

Mr Saatchi might be able to drum up a little support over the Saatchi brand name but would be unwise to do battle on the shifting sands of a once upon a time salary which went the same way as ambitions embracing the Midland Bank.

Mr Saatchi's future may be insecure but such insecurity should, surely, be shared by the remuneration committee, led by Sir Peter Walters and recently enriched by the arrival of Sir Paul Giorlami, complete with his £9.6 million Glaxo send off.

Stanhope stalled

THE future of Stanhope Properties looks bleaker by the day. To survive, the company needs £1 million to pay rents at the end of the month. Stanhope's bankers must decide whether or not to meet the short-term cash requirement and allow the poker game to continue. In its current form, Stanhope seems an expensive way of warehousing a share certificate in Broadgate Properties: the only asset that matters.

Southern Electric plans to eliminate 1,200 more jobs

By ERIC REGULY

SOUTHERN ELECTRIC, the big regional electricity company that has already cut more than 20 per cent of its workforce since early last year, yesterday said it will eliminate 1,200 more jobs by the end of the decade.

The company expects to have only 3,000 workers in five years, down from about 4,200 at the end of September. In March 1993, when the cost-cutting programme began, Southern had almost 5,300 employees. No forced redundancies are expected, said Henry Casley, the chief executive. Older employees will be enticed to leave with an early retirement package.

Ian McCartney, the Shadow Employment Minister, denounced the job losses. "Employees in privatised water and electricity companies are

paying for big profits and massive executive payouts with their jobs," he said. "No wonder there is no 'feel-good' factor. No job is safe."

Southern tried to play down the losses, saying that efficiency drives were forcing the industry to trim its ranks. Mr Casley said: "This is small beer. It amounts to about 200 jobs a year by 2000."

The job eliminations have allowed Southern to reduce its year-on-year fixed costs by 5.6 per cent, to about £97 million. In 1991, when the industry was privatised, the fixed costs were £121 million.

About 5,800 job cuts, including Southern's, have been announced by the industry since Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, ordered electricity bills to be reduced by £50 million next year.

Southern's reductions came as it reported pre-tax profits of £106.8 million in the half year to the end of September, up 19.7 per cent from the previous period. Earnings per share rose by the same amount, to 29.7p, while turnover declined by 2.6 per cent to £744.8 million.

The strong earnings and continued cost cutting enabled the company to increase its interim dividend by 24 per cent, to 8.3p from 6.7p, payable on March 20. It is the highest dividend increase announced so far if share-buy-backs are not taken into consideration.

Southern is one of the few electricity companies that has not purchased its own shares, although it received approval to do so at its last annual general meeting.

On Monday, Northern Electric lifted its interim dividend by 30 per cent. The underlying increase, however, was only 16 per cent if the effects of its share buy-back are eliminated.

John Deane, the finance director, said Southern would not decide to go ahead with a buy-back until the tax and benefits implications of the National Grid flotation were known. Southern owns 10 per cent of Grid.

All of Southern's divisions — distribution, supply and non-electricity businesses — reported higher operating profits in the period. The supply business reported the biggest increase, with operating profit rising 38 per cent to £17.4 million. Operating profits on the distribution side increased by 9 per cent to £24 million.

The non-electricity business was marred only by Powerhouse Retail, which sells and services appliances such as fridges and cookers. Powerhouse, which is 36 per cent owned by Southern, is losing more £5 million a year.

Mr Deane said Southern would stick with Powerhouse even though there is not much chance of a turnaround in the near future.

Separately, Southern said it is willing to merge or buy another electricity company, but wants to avoid a hostile takeover because it would involve paying a premium. Mr Deane said the company was not holding any takeover talks.

Southern's shares closed at 756p, up 6p.



Philip Robinson, left, and Mark Frey, joint chief executives of Tring International, which has been able to increase its investment in music rights

Sound of success for Tring

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

TRING International, the budget priced cassette and audio cassette publisher that came to the market earlier this year, is paying a maiden interim dividend of 142p.

The payout follows a 19 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £2.6 million in the half year to September 30, up from £2.2 million in the corresponding period last year. Earnings per share increased by 11 per cent, to 3.98p, from 3.57p.

The group, which buys copyrights and sells low-priced CDs and tapes through retail outlets, said that its strong balance sheet and cash flow had enabled it to increase its investment in music rights during the period. Cash balances stood at more than £2 million at the end of the first half.

The group said that it had made good progress in its strategy of expanding into new retail outlets. Its products are now available in more than 300 branches of Tesco and it has recently signed a deal with WH Smith.

Trading in the second half is in line with expectations, and the board expects to report a satisfactory result for the year. The interim dividend is to be paid on January 27.

British Land drives ahead as acquisitions lift rent income

By CARL MORTSHED

BRITISH LAND, the property group, which last month spent £142 million buying out George Soros's Quantum fund, has raised its profits 30 per cent to £23.7 million in the half year to September 30. The interim dividend rises 7.75 per cent to 2.64p.

The company, which owns a 29 per cent share of the troubled Stanhope Properties company, is awaiting the outcome of talks between itself and Stanhope's bankers about a British Land offer of 60p in the pound to the banks to obtain control. British Land is thought to be unwilling to raise its offer.

British Land's borrowings have risen to just under half of its £1.8 billion of properties and investments after consolidation of the £591 million joint venture portfolio. The company did not publish a net asset figure, but indicated that gearing would be just under 100 per cent, with interest cover on the debt at 1.7 times.

John Ritblat, British Land chairman, said that 63 per cent of the portfolio had been acquired in the past 6 years, and annualised gross rents were running at £200 million. "We find ourselves in the strategic position of owning

the best defensive portfolio we can ever remember, which yet offers the best prospects for growth," he said. Mr Ritblat also indicated that debt could be reduced by converting the £150 million 6 per cent irredeemable bonds into British Land preference shares.

Rental income for the half year rose 14.5 per cent to £83.2 million, boosted mainly by acquisitions. About a third of

British Land's rental stream comes from leases on superstores, which contain guaranteed uplifts and are currently undergoing rent reviews.

Mr Ritblat said that the second half should provide further improvements to British Land, underpinned by annualised gross rents at £200 million a year "and still rising through conventional reversions and guaranteed uplifts".

Abbey closes City office

ABBEY NATIONAL is to close the City of London office of J Trevor & Webster, its commercial property surveying company, this Friday with the loss of three jobs. Three more people will be made redundant, with the possibility of further job cuts, if the property market fails to pick up (Robert Miller writes).

J Trevor & Webster, which employs 260 people in 14 offices, has not made a profit since 1988. It was incorporated into Abbey National's Cornerstone estate agency chain, which was sold in 1993.

Millions 'miss out in old accounts'

By ROBERT MILLER

NEARLY 20 million savers are losing more than £800 million a year in interest by leaving a total of £20 billion in obsolete accounts according to the National & Provincial Building Society.

The N&P yesterday called on other savings institutions to follow its lead and scrap all obsolete accounts and "to put an end to the £20 billion savings scandal".

A year ago, N&P decided to transfer 600,000 savers out of more than 40 old accounts and into six newer, higher-interest, accounts. Only a few societies have followed suit. These include the Leeds Permanent, the Cheltenham & Gloucester and the Britannia.

Last week, Birmingham Midshires announced that it is to upgrade 289,000 savings accounts from the end of the year. The society has invested £13.5 million in its Best Account trade-up programme, which involves transferring money from closed accounts to higher-paying alternatives.

The Building Societies Ombudsman has in the past made clear his concern about savers being left in accounts paying low interest

while their society launches newer and better accounts.

Andy Marchant, savings manager for N&P, said: "We estimate that up to one in three of the population still has an obsolete account and many of them don't even know it. There is almost £20 billion of savings languishing in those accounts, and the interest building societies are effectively withholding is likely to be upwards of £800 million a year."

Mr Marchant added that, with a few notable exceptions, there was little sign of other societies following N&P's example.

A spokeswoman for the Building Societies Association said: "This is very much a competitive and commercial issue for individual societies. But we welcome any move which makes clear to customers the choices available to them."

N&P said that it was also concerned that customers left in no-interest current accounts with banks are losing out, and that some National Savings investors are left in extension accounts from maturing certificates, with rates as low as 1 per cent.

Emap pays £60m for Maclean Hunter

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

EMAP's voracious appetite for acquisitions continues unabated. The fast-growing magazine and newspaper publisher announced the £60 million cash purchase of Maclean Hunter European Publishing from Rogers Communications, its Canadian parent.

Maclean Hunter publishes 34 business magazines, 22 directories, and provides seven electronic information services in the UK and across Europe. Among its leading titles are UK Press Gazette and International Freight Weekly.

The deal was widely anticipated although the purchase price was at the top end of expectations. Analysts had esti-

mated the business was worth between £40 million and £60 million.

Colin Morrison, chairman of Emap Business Communications, said the deal strengthened the group's position in the business sector and expanded its presence in Europe.

The acquisition of Maclean Hunter is the latest in a series of deals by Emap this year. The group recently spent about £50 million on Trans World, the radio group, and paid £105 million for a clutch of French consumer magazines. The latest purchase brings the total spent on acquisitions to more than £250 million.

Robin Miller, Emap's chief executive,

said other opportunities remained but added that the group's main efforts would now be concentrated on the businesses it had already bought.

Emap expects the acquisition of Maclean Hunter to be earnings enhancing in the current year. The business made operating profits of £36.0 million (£31.1 million) on turnover of £80.9 million (£41.3 million) in the year to December 31. Net assets stood at £35.7 million (£2.9 million) at the year end. The acquisition is conditional on receipt by Rogers Communications of Canadian regulatory approval and is expected to be completed by December 31.



Miller: opportunities

RJB MINING PLC

Acquisition of the principal coal mining activities of British Coal Corporation in England and Placing and Offer for Sale

To receive a mini prospectus and an application form, together with information on how to participate in the offer, please contact either your stockbroker or one of the following Share Shops.

Norwich & Peterborough Building Society

0603 765003

Skipton Building Society

0532 453210

ShareLink

021 200 7766

The Share Centre

0800 800008

Leeds Permanent Building Society

0532 453210

This advertisement has been approved by Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited, a member of The Securities and Futures Authority Limited, for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Bid speculation switches on Northern Electric

SPECULATORS were blowing a fuse as shares of Northern Electric surged 23p to a high of 910p amid whispers that a bid for the company is being put together by a Far East consortium.

The word is that Trafalgar House, the Curator to Ritz Hotel group due to report tomorrow, is ready to make a tender offer of around £10 a share for almost 30 per cent of Northern. The move is likely to be backed by Hongkong Land, Trafalgar's 25 per cent shareholder controlled by the powerful Keswick family. Jardine Matheson, the Hong Kong conglomerate, may also be willing to offer financial backing for the venture.

At last night's closing price, Northern's stock market value is £1.12 billion but a full bid for the company can be ruled out until at least March when the Government's "golden share" in each regional electrical company expires.

The timing of such a move has raised a few eyebrows in the Square Mile. Some brokers through potential predators might wait until the "golden share" is dropped and the Northern Grid, jointly owned by the RECs, is floated.

However, taking a crucial stake in Northern ahead of the Grid flotation may make sense, especially with the shares still cum their 9p dividend after the figures on Monday.

In recent weeks, other bidders have been linked with Northern, including Hanson, 1p higher at 27p, and Scottish Power 1 1/2p firmer at 33 1/2p.

Elsewhere in the sector, the dividend season continued apace with Southern, up 6p at 756p, chipping in with a typically generous payment to shareholders of 8.3p, an increase of almost 24 per cent. This followed an increase of 20 per cent to £106.8 million in pre-tax profits and was achieved on the back of aggressive cost-cutting, which will result in shedding 25 per cent of the workforce. Speculation that the group may pay a special dividend out of reserves proved unfounded.

Meanwhile, the rest of the equity market put on a drab performance; share prices closed marginally up on the day with hopes of a traditional pre-Christmas rally fading fast. The FT-SE 100 index gave up an early lead of almost 20 points, following worse-than-expected US retail sales and



Analysts are hoping BP will give them the nod today

another set of producer price figures, to move into negative territory. The index eventually closed 3 up, at 2,946.4, but it was an unconvincing performance with investors unwilling to stick their necks out ahead of today's clutch of inflation figures which may signal a further rise in bank base rates.

Among the leaders, BP

could restart dealing in the shares without compromising their tax advantages. Many were rushing to cover short positions.

Worries about the prospect of higher interest rates and talk of a sell recommendation doing the rounds led RMC Group 2 1/2p lower at 969p and Redland 8p off at 430p.

HSBC firmed 5p to 634p

Spring Ram, the troubled bathroom and kitchens supplier, eased 2 1/2p to 43 1/2p as former chairman Bill Rooney sold 15 million shares, or 3.3 per cent, at 42p. This cuts his holding to 46.3 million shares, or 10.2 per cent. Last month he joined the board of Atrius, unchanged at 12 1/2p, after buying a 32 per cent stake.

firmed 2p to 403p ahead of a presentation for brokers in the City later today. They are hoping for some positive news from the company.

Boots, the chemist, stood out with a rise of 1 1/2p to 469 1/2p showing the first signs of life since its recent share buy-back was completed. Brokers claim that yesterday was the first day that investors, who took advantage of the buy-back,

despite claims that one stockbroker had turned cautious of the shares. Dealers in London claim Hong Kong's Hang Seng index still has some way to fall which could be bad news for HSBC. Granada Group was a weak market losing 5p at 496p after a meeting with stockbroker Hoare Govett.

Greenalls, the pubs and hotel group, celebrated a 30

per cent jump in full year pre-tax profits to £88.2 million with a rise of 9p to 425p. The group's performance was bolstered by a first time contribution from the Devenish chain of pubs, acquired last year.

Vauxhall, the Sunderland brewer and hotelier, firmed 2p to 229p after raising full year pre-tax profits 13.2 per cent and lifting the final dividend to 9.8p compared with 9.5p last time. The results were boosted by a strong recovery at its Swallow Hotels.

Eurocop, the photocopy supplier, rose 6p to 72p, for a two day gain of 8p, after lifting pre-tax profits last year £1 million to £3.6 million. The number of copiers installed rose 28 per cent to 20,000.

Better than expected profits news saw David S. Smith touch 509p before ending the session just 1p firmer at 499p. A recovery in its core paper markets and a sizeable contribution from its rebuilt Kemsley Mill saw half year pre-tax profits almost treble to £40.4 million. Shareholders were rewarded with an increase in the dividend from 2.75p to 4.25p.

Emap, the publisher, marked time at 376p after paying out £60 million for Maclean Hunter European Publishing, a subsidiary of the Canadian group Rogers Communications.

GILT EDGED: Gilts were dragged lower by other European bond markets following news of a hike in Swedish interest rates. The latest retail sales combined with US producer prices to create a volatility at the lower levels leaving prices nursing falls of up to 1 1/2p at the close.

In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt ended £17 1/2 lower at £101 17 1/2 as a total of 48,000 contracts were completed.

At the longer end of the conventional market, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 tumbled £9 1/2 to £104 19 1/2, while in shorts Treasury 9 1/2 per cent finished £1 1/4 easier at 103 1/2. NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks held their modest gains at midday, drawing strength from a rally in bonds and November economic data which analysts said was generally positive for markets.

The Dow was up 3.02 points at 3,723, while advances led declining issues by about 11 to 9. U.S. Treasuries were mixed, with the long bond up 1 1/2 to yield 7.87 per cent.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	3721.39 (+3.02)
S&P Composite	451.14 (+1.67)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18875.48 (+99.62)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	7849.75 (+141.97)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	406.81 (+0.32)
Sydney:	
AO	1852.7 (+0.6)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2011.25 (+13.57)
Singapore:	
Straits	2099.14 (+1.59)
Brussels:	
General	7155.86 (+33.00)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1917.11 (+2.21)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	634.80 (+1.00)
London:	
FT 30	2267.0 (+1.3)
FT 100	2946.4 (+3.0)
FT-SE Mid 250	3773.2 (+0.8)
FT-SE Euro Stoxx 100	1309.30 (+0.18)
FT A-All-Share	1466.10 (+0.7)
FT Non Financials	1582.40 (+0.7)
FT Gold Mines	2182.1 (+2.2)
FT Fixed Interest	108.49 (+0.28)
FT Govt Sec	91.49 (+0.40)
Bargains	1859
SEAQ Volume	609.8m
USM (Dassault)	151.36 (same)
USM	1.8630 (+0.0036)
German Mark	2.4566 (-0.0036)
Exchange Index	804 (same)
Bank of England official rate	4.50p
ECU	1.2859
ESR	1.0758
RPI	145.2 (Oct 2.4%) Jan 1989=100

RECENT ISSUES

Ashbourne (150)	151
Asset Mgmt Inv (100)	95
Clydeport	165
Dragon Oil Wts	14
Eucledian (100)	102
Eurovelin (141)	140
Fidelity Spec Vts	468
Fidelity Sml Cos C (100)	98
First Russ Fds (\$10)	620
Fleming Nat Res (100)	92
For & Col Emrg C (100)	102
H Gov 1000 Ind (100)	101
Hydro Int (80)	83
INVERSCO Korea C	96
JTB Sports (215)	230
Kiln Capital (100)	100
Mithras Lyds (100)	85
Murray Emrg Ec (100)	90
Murray Emrg Ec Wrs	39
RAP Group	144
SeaPerfect (120)	129
TLG (115)	132
Tele-Cine Cell (170)	163
Teleview Comm (182)	179
Wellington Under (100)	102

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cowle n/p (190)	18
Division Grp n/p (100)	21
OMI n/p (37)	2
Sallure n/p (12)	1
Usborne n/p (25)	1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Shedell Holdings	385p (+21p)
First Tech	264p (+24p)
Unilever	109p (+15p)
FALLS:	
Wilson Bowth	316p (-12p)
Broken Hill	813p (-23p)
Cortaca	38p (-5p)
Sebe	533p (-12p)
Avon Rubber	481p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 28

TEMPUS

In with the inn crowd

GREENALLS is still benefiting from its inspired decision four years ago to escape from the brewing industry and concentrate on its retailing skills. Today it is half way through a remarkable transformation from being an also-ran regional brewer to becoming a national pub and hotel operator.

In the past year the group has tidied up many of the less attractive operations that threatened to thwart its ambitions. The loss-making soft drink business has gone, the off-licence chain has been reinvigorated and the downmarket hotels and American hotel chain are up for sale. This leaves it free to develop its managed house, estate and the pub/restaurant business within the Premier House division. The results demonstrated the attractions of these businesses, with solid increases in both food and drink sales, while

the belated decision to split out Devenish's share shows it is making a worthwhile contribution.

Greenalls' main problem is generating cash for development, since the high quality pubs and hotels it likes do not come cheap. Even though this year, cash flow will be negative by million this year, cash flow will be negative by up to £20 million. This explains the group's up to £20 million. This explains the group's up to £20 million. This explains the group's up to £20 million.

Whether that will be enough to satisfy the group's ambitions is unclear. More likely Greenalls still needs to pull off a truly large pub acquisitions to make itself a truly national business. But on the strength of these figures, the group would not have difficulty raising the finance in the City.

British Land

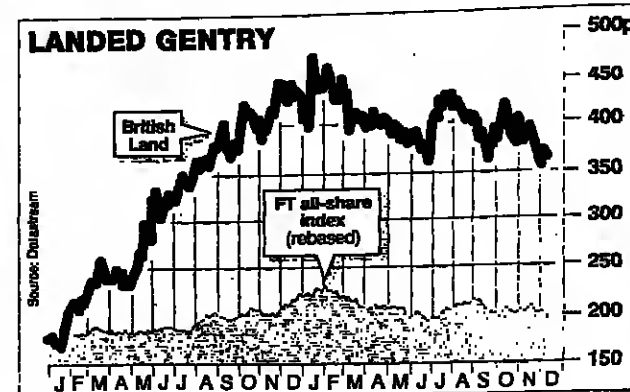
BRITISH Land has performed so well against its peers in the property sector that it looks in danger of a downgrade. Since the end of September, the property sector has lost 10 per cent — as gloom about progress on rents has been compounded by interest rate worries — but British Land has lost less than 3 per cent of its value.

Yesterday, the company gave some justification for its outperformance: rents are rising, not just due to the addition of £90 million of new property to the portfolio, but the company is beginning to see the first five-year rent increases from its superstores, where leases have built-in guaranteed rent rises.

Ultimately, what British Land offers investors to justify its rating is the promise of

innovative deals, and the loss of the Quantum fund's financial muscle will limit the company's firepower. This does not mean a deal over Broadgate is impossible but it increases the pressure on British Land not to overpay; in any event, investors should expect some kind of fund-raising to accompany such a large acquisition.

which will leave investors wary of the shares. A general loss of confidence in the property market could be good news if it pushes forward the long-delayed consolidation in the sector, and even if the price of Broadgate proves elusive, British Land is in a prime position to stitch together some corporate deals.



Coats Viyella

WHEN Coats Viyella announced its intention to sell its fabrics, carpets and yarns businesses last month, no one expected the exercise to be easy or cheap. In the event the group has done well to sell the carpets operations so quickly. The business will almost certainly record a loss for 1994 since the carpet sales are closely linked to the depressed housing market, while rising raw material prices have squeezed margins.

Coats is staying silent on the price, but it looks to be a discount to the £30 million of net assets in the business, even though Shaw Industries had to bid against a venture capital-funded management buy-out team.

That will make it hard for Coats to raise the £100 million it is said to want from the disposal, since the yarns and fabrics business looks likely to be bought out by its management early in the new year. Even if it does

achieve its target, the effects of the disposal will make the year-end accounts unhappy reading. The write-off on the sale could easily be as high as £40 million. This and the effects of poor trading in the warm winter will depress the group's bottom line for 1994, while the disposals are likely to cause some dilution next year due to the low interest rates the group will earn on the cash.

Despite the adverse short-term effects, Coats' decision to jettison these businesses cannot be faulted. Carpets had become a peripheral activity within the group, accounting for only 4 per cent of group turnover. Like yarns and fabrics, its low returns and deep cyclicality were lowering the quality of the earnings from Coats' main threads, clothing and precision engineering operations.

By recycling the cash from these disposals into its acquisitive expansion overseas, Coats will reduce its exposure to the vagaries of the British

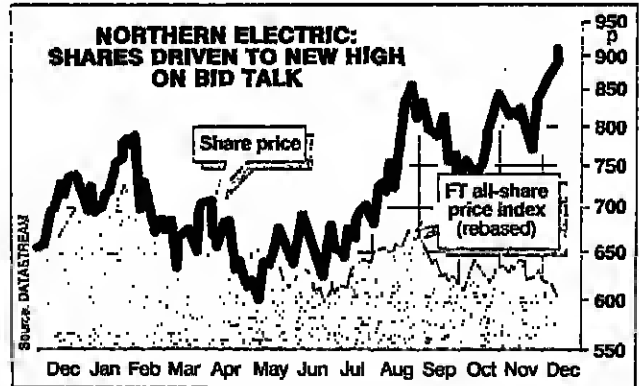
weather and economy to the benefit of its share rating.

David S Smith

SMITH shareholders waited a long time for the benefits of the group's laboured rebuilding of its Kemsley plant to appear, but now they are coming in spades. The completion of the Kemsley plant came at the right moment to feed rising demand, which has been strong enough for the company to pass on raw material price increases of up to 50 per cent. Unlike many packaging companies, Smith managed to expand operating margins to 9.6 per cent in the half-year. To September compared with a meagre 5.8 per cent a year ago.

Having achieved this step change in earnings, Smith must now consolidate it, to achieve the ambitious profit hurdles that the City has already started forecasting.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT



COMMODITIES

ICE-LOK (London 6.00pm)			GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES				
CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)			WHEAT		BARLEY		
				Eds £/q	Eds £/q		
Dec	15.80	-0.30	Mar	106.75	104.15		
Jan	16.00	-0.20	Mar	107.75	105.90		
Feb	16.00	-0.20	Mar	108.75	107.75		
Mar	16.00	-0.20	Mar	111.40	109.25		
Apr	16.00	-0.20	Sep	206.65	97.00		
W Texas (Intermediate) (Feb)	17.00	-0.30					
PRODUCTS (\$/MT)			POTATO 10/8				
Spot CIF NW Europe (grossed delivery)			Volume: 36	Open	Close		
Premium Gas. IS	161 £/4	£1 161 £/4		unq	unq		
Gasol. IS	121 £/4	£1 121 £/4		unq	unq		
Non EEC H. IS	142 £/4	£1 142 £/4		29.50	29.65		
W. Gasol. IS	142 £/4	£1 142 £/4		29.75	29.85		
35 Fuel Oil	96 £/1	£1 97 £/1		unq	unq		
Naphtha	170 £/4	£1 172 £/4		Volume: 42			
IPE FUTURES (GNI £4)			RUBBER (No 1 RSS CI 20)				
CAS OIL			10/8 25, 25				
Jan	142.00-42.25	Mar	146.50-40.75				
Feb	144.25-44.50	May	146.75-42.25				
Mar	146.25-46.50	Vol	17361				
BRENT (6.00pm)			BIFFEX (GNI £4 \$100)				
Jan	15.90-15.97	Mar	15.94-15.95	Dec 94	High	Low	Close
Feb	15.90-15.97	May	15.95-15.97	Jan 95	2030	1920	2035
Mar	15.93-15.97	Vol	24768	Feb 95	2000	1960	2005
				Mar 95	1800	1960	1880
				Vol	469	1800	1880
					Open Interest:	380	
					Index 2043 +5		
(Official) (Volume prev day)			LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			Randall/West	
Copper Del 6 month			Cash 2953-2956.0	3mths 2950.0-2952.0	Vol	111850	
Lead 6 month			622.00-640.00	610.00-640.00		117620	
Lead 6 month			1096.00-1096.00	1096.00-1096.00		117620	
Tin 6 month			2670.00-2673.00	2669.00-2670.00		28640	
Aluminium H. 6 month			1817.00-1817.5	1816.00-1817.5		107620	
Aluminium L. 6 month			1817.00-1817.5	1816.00-1817.5		107620	

THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Deutsche aims for the big time

NERVOUSNESS over the S G Warburg-Morgan Stanley merger talks has started to feed the rumour mill about Deutsche Bank's ambitions. After its recent announcement that it was concentrating its international investment banking activity in London, where it is proud owner of Morgan Grenfell, the leading German commercial bank has left no doubts about its desire to become a leading world player in investment banking. Ronald Schmitz, the management board member of Deutsche Bank who is to head the international investment banking arm, now reveals the scale of his bank's ambition. Deutsche Bank, he says, expects to be competing on an equal footing with the big three investment banks — Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch — in a few years. Often said to be the godfather of the Germany's post-war economic miracle, Deutsche was yesterday, however, quick to end speculation that it is thinking of taking over James Capel, as the next move in its strategic expansion.

Staying put

PEARSON, the media group, has reached out across the "Pond" for extra muscle to its management team. Frank Barlow, the managing director, is to get a deputy, David Veit, a Briton who has been in America for as long as anyone can remember. But Veit, an Oxford hockey blue, just turned 56, has no plans to relocate to London. Having happily run the Pearson's Houston oil services business from New York, he is about to adopt a similar approach to his new job. He will fly the Atlantic twice a month to keep in touch, otherwise, it appears that Veit will be staying very much put at his Westchester County home. These are the sort of executives the airlines simply adore.



"Even retailers have stopped believing in Father Christmas."

Very much alive

WHAT'S in a name? David Bishop, architect of a planned restructuring of the UK accountancy profession, is growing used to seeing his name in headlines. He told a meeting in Leeds this week that "Bishop's Moves" and "Pawis in Bishop's Game" were just about palatable, but drew the line at "Bishop Dead". Colleagues had telephoned to check out the truth of the headline. Not all, he adds, were pleased to bear his voice.

Beer match

JUST a year after the trauma of having the Central Bank of Spain dismiss its board, Banco Espanol de Credito (Bancro) has gained a potential new shareholder to join such names as Royal Bank of Scotland and First Fidelity. The new shareholder, Modelo, Mexico's biggest brewer, has come on board with a 3 per cent stake. For a bank that found its former chairman, Mario Conde, far too bubbly, bringing in a beermaker must at least appear interesting.

COLIN NARBROUGH



Mail being sorted at a district head office. The Post Office is looking enthusiastically at investment in automation, at least for counters

Post Office delivers record profit to rebuke opponents

The Post Office is getting on with business after sell-off fiasco, Philip Bassett reports

When the Post Office this morning announces half-year figures which will put it on track for another record annual profit, senior managers will be ready for the 10-fold-you-so accusations from the successful opponents of privatisation. In campaigning for a sell-off, the Government and the Post Office never got past the "if it ain't broke, why fix it?" charge — and today's results will be seized on as vindicating public ownership.

Bill Cockburn, the Post Office chief executive, is well aware of that. "It isn't broke," he says. "It looks good. We are proud of it. But it looks better than it really is. All we said is don't be seduced by today's situation. Our profitability is being driven by the need to meet the Government's cash target, and the competitive forces against us are becoming more and more sharp. That's why we need commercial freedom."

That remains the Post Office's central case, even after the abandonment of the privatisation which the Government and the Post Office Board said was the only way of delivering that greater freedom. After two-and-a-half years of what managers refer to as "planning blight" caused by the Government's review of the corporation's future, its Green Paper on the same issue and finally the Cabinet's decision to block privatisation because of implacable opposition from a small group of backbench Conservative MPs, the Post Office feels its development is back to square one.

Even worse for managers is that while they feel the corporation's future has been frozen, international competitors have not been standing still. Germany's post office, which is seen by the UK Post Office as the most potent threat to its market, is now a Companies Act-style company, while Denmark's parliament carried similar legislation a few weeks ago. The Dutch post office is privatised, and postal services in Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore are heading the same way.

"While we've been standing still, the world has changed," Mr Cockburn says. "We could find ourselves, as one of the countries that started the whole thing off, on whom most others have modelled themselves and to whom they look as a benchmark — and we are the most successful in the world at the

moment — watching as they go by us towards greater commercial freedom, and here we are doing nothing."

Doing nothing does not come easily to the energetic Mr Cockburn, even after the hard pounding he and the Post Office have had from Whitehall and the politicians. Indeed, the Post Office has not been sitting still.

Whatever its frustration with the Government, it is still getting on with business — and a huge business at that: 64 million letters every working day, 28 million people visiting Post Offices every week, more retail outlets than all the main banks and building societies put together.

Mr Cockburn says: "There's no paralysis here. We have a vast business to run, and we're getting on with it, but the fundamental issues remain unaltered."

Post Office leaders accept that privatisation is off the political agenda, at least until the general election. In spite of the Prime Minister's support for it — unmade, to the Post Office's irritation, during the Green Paper period over the summer — and of pledges to continue to press for it from pro-privatisers such as Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor, and Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade. Indeed, the prospects of privatisation being revived have if anything worsened since it was abandoned a month ago. Mr Cockburn does not accept the suggestion floating around Whitehall that part of the reason for privatisation going down was that the Post Office and he himself overplayed their hands. He also rejects

any suggestion that he and Mike Heron, Post Office chairman, have made their positions as heads of a nationalised industry untenable because of their support for the sell-off. And despite the paintings of trains on the walls of his office, he denies the rumours that he will be leaving to head the privatisation of Railtrack.

Instead, he insists both he and the Post Office will continue to battle on for commercial freedom — freedom from the constraints of government finances and freedom to strike out in new commercial ventures.

Privately, though, senior managers acknowledge that will not be easy. Although the Treasury mounted the strongest opposition to the greater commercial freedom for the Post Office because of what it saw as its precedent-setting implications for others, Mr Heseltine too has left the Post Office in no doubt that he is as opposed to such a course as is the Chancellor.

What, then, the Post Office's management want to know from the Government, is the corporation supposed to do? The one thing that all sides — ministers, the Post Office, its customers and employees, opposition parties, industry, pressure groups and others — said was unacceptable, the status quo, is what the Post Office has ended up with. Managers look forward to MPs on the Commons' Trade and Industry Select Committee putting that point to Mr Heseltine at hearings in the new year. MPs are already saying in private that if he fails to give them a satisfactory answer on the corporation's future,

they will take the issue on to the floor of the House. Mr Cockburn is still civil servant enough to seem uncomfortable when it is put to him that given Labour's clear support for greater commercial freedom for the Post Office, the corporation would be better off under a Labour government.

Although many senior managers do believe that, Mr Cockburn says: "If there is a change of government, and Labour has said it wants to see greater commercial freedom, then it will be interesting to see whether that would come about."

Some managers doubt whether Gordon Brown, as a Labour Chancellor, would be any less keen than Mr Clarke to walk away from the money the Post Office pumps back into the Treasury annually: this year it is £226 million, next year £213 million, although many accept that Labour would want to keep faith with an industry it regards as perhaps the best example of public ownership working well.

Mr Cockburn himself rejects the idea, supported by some of his close colleagues, that with no commercial freedom, the Post Office is now in effect in opposition to the Government. "Whatever is the government of the day, we need to work with them to see how we can best manage a successful business. There is no mileage in a head-on confrontation. That won't take the industry forward."

But management is now genuinely unsure what will take the industry forward. They will look enthusiastically at using the Government's private finance initiative, headed by Euro-tunnel's Sir Alastair Morton, to help fund the investment for automating Post Office counters by putting on-line terminals in every local post office. And they claim the whole privatisation affair has not been wholly negative for the Post Office.

In spite of good figures such as today's, the managers believe they have no long-term framework in which to operate, but they are determined to find one. "Our argument was not deficient," Mr Cockburn says. "The Government rejected it not because they were opposed to the argument: it failed because politically they could not get it through. And that gives us something solid on which to build."



Bill Cockburn: energetic

Jon Ashworth examines the latest tribulations

Saatchi's image in need of polish as share option comes under fire

For someone who made his fortune creating glossy images for others, Maurice Saatchi seems to suffer a curious short-sightedness when it comes to his own persona. The chairman of what was once the world's greatest advertising agency is facing the prospect of not only being kicked off the Saatchi & Saatchi board, but of seeing the Saatchi name stripped from the letterhead. And all on account of a £5 million share option plan.

American shareholders are said to be incensed by proposals for a "super option scheme" under which Mr Saatchi would qualify for a £5 million bonus if the company's share price were to double in the next three years. The scheme, drawn up by the company's remuneration committee, would entitle him to shares worth eight times his previous salary of £625,000 — drastically cut this year after shareholder pressure.

A group of shareholders speaking for a third of the Saatchi shares and led by Harris Associates of Chicago feel the proposed scheme is rather too generous. Not only do they want it scaled back, but they are questioning whether Mr Saatchi should not be removed from the board and booted on to Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising Worldwide, its operating subsidiary. With a last twist of the knife, they want the board to consider changing the name of the holding company.

Saatchi & Saatchi will not comment on the reports, although directors are expected to consider the proposals soon. Mr Saatchi is unlikely to be too perturbed by the storm. He



Charles Scott, left, chief executive, with Maurice Saatchi, whose rewards have been attacked

should be fairly immune to criticism. It has come in a steady torrent since October 1989, when he and his brother, Charles, announced they were to step aside as joint chief executives of Saatchi & Saatchi. The shares had never recovered from a disastrous attempt to buy Midland Bank just ahead of the October 1987 stock market crash. Half-year profits went on to tumble by two thirds in the summer of 1989 as a high cost structure began to bite. The company reported a loss of £58 million for the year.

The company that helped Margaret Thatcher to power on the back of the famous "Labour Isn't Working" cam-

paign was looking a little rusty itself. The new management eventually produced a £400 million rescue package aimed at putting the company back on the road to recovery.

The pay debate began raging last Christmas, when the reclusive Charles Saatchi said he was leaving the board at the age of 50 to become honorary president. His brother stayed on as chairman, locked in on a salary of £625,000 on a five-year rolling contract, but drawing only half of it because of the company's financial state.

Mr Saatchi abandoned the five-year contract under pressure in March and agreed to his base salary being cut to

£200,000 plus bonus. The performance-related bonus was to be based on revenue growth while a proposed share option scheme would be linked to the share price. It is details of this scheme, given a passing mention in March, that have now exploded into the headlines.

Meantime, the recovery continues. In August, the company unveiled an interim pre-tax profit of £15.3 million, up 68 per cent on the previous £9.1 million. It also beat stiff competition to win the National Lottery advertising contract, potentially worth between £25 million and £50 million a year. The shares were unchanged at 155p yesterday.



ANTHONY HARRIS

The futile search for true figures

Michael Portillo is in trouble again for seeking a new statistical measure of employment. Unemployment is falling, but employment is falling too, though more slowly. It is easy enough to think of possible explanations — early retirement, more youngsters in education (although often for lack of job opportunities), an unrecorded growth in self-employment; but his officials have explored all these, and doubtless many more, and still they cannot make the figures add up. So let us switch the definition. It could hardly look more suspicious.

Nothing new, all the same. The search for special factors to explain away embarrassing numbers is an old one. One of my early reporting jobs was to attend the monthly briefing at which Tony Crosland puffed a sceptical cigar while officials tried to put a gloss on the trade figures. "Any special factors which might have made the figures better rather than worse?" someone asked. "We never looked for them," said the official; and Crosland simply laughed. This exchange may indeed have been one of the things that shamed the department into more respectable habits; we don't hear about special factors these days, simply lumpy or volatile items.

Yet there have been times when it might have been better to look a little harder. Distortions can have real political and economic effects. The jumbo jets which caused a completely phoney balance of payments "crisis" in 1970, when Edward Heath won his upset victory, is the best known political example, but worse was to follow. During, and even more after, the 1976 IMF crisis, the import numbers were inflated by arrival of exploration rigs to develop the North Sea oilfields. Most belonged to foreign oil companies, so nobody had to pay; but the raw numbers caused a non-stop sterling crisis, distorted policy and fattered a whole school of catastrophe theory, before the accounts swung dramatically into surplus as they came on stream.

Then, it was groundless panic: at the moment it might be desirable to put a

slow puncture in complacency. The official figures show at the moment that the British trade account is stronger than expected, consumer spending weaker, and saving unusually high. Ministers talk of a new golden age. Well, perhaps; but what about the bootleg factor? The Irish learned about this years ago, when Garrett Fitzgerald tried to tackle a fiscal crisis with truly punitive duties on drink, tobacco and heavy consumer durables. Result: revenue did not rise, but the current account swung suddenly into surplus. Explanation: Irish liquor, tobacco and durables were exported to the North by the trainload, and smuggled back by the car load.

It is a bit like that here now. Everyone knows that with the arrival of the single market, cross-channel shopping has grown explosively. The licensed trades grumble, and shed crocodile tears for the Chancellor, whom they estimate will lose £525 million in revenue this year.

Nobody, though, seems to gross these figures up to get the macroeconomic numbers, so I will have a try. About £1.25 billion of consumer spending is lost to the official figures on account of drink alone. Add on tobacco, food and other shopping, and it may be as much as £2 billion. And if half this is spent on British goods, that means that £1 billion of British "exports" are simply reimported, unrecorded.

So this trade may already account for nearly a quarter of the celebrated improvement in our trade balance; and it will certainly grow, especially if Brussels rules that you don't have to go to Calais; just order through an agent. Add on clubs, back street stores and car boot sales, the bootleg part of the trade, and we could soon be talking serious money. But we'll never know for sure; that, as Mr Portillo will learn in his search for concealed jobs, is the nature of the black economy. More important, perhaps, it is part of the nature of the single market. As the European economies merge, we will know less and less about them.

HILTON SPORTS FINE WOOL BURBERRYS BLAZER.



ROCHESTER
BIG & TALL

From trenchcoats to ties, size won't be a problem at Rochester Big & Tall. And with a huge range of designer names, including Hickey Freeman, Bruno Magli and Nike, we're big on quality too. So if you'd like to be the height of fashion, come to 90 Brompton Road (071-838 0018) or Freephone 0800 442277 for a catalogue.

For your added convenience, we accept the American Express® Card.

NOW OPEN OPPOSITE HARRODS.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Time to stop the forgers

Rodney Hobson on the never-ending battle between security printers and criminals

The share certificate looked authentic enough. It could have been mistaken for the real thing but for one problem. The word VOID appeared across it several times in large letters. The attempt at forgery was part of the never-ending battle between security printers and criminals who try to keep one step in front of each other. The spectacular improvement in colour photocopying means that just about any document worth copying — from dividend warrants to box-office tickets — can be reproduced in graphic detail.

One way that the forgers can be thwarted is to put in a watermark which is invisible on the genuine item but which shows up in photocopying.

So great is the problem that the banks have banded together to step up security next year. They will introduce new measures next month and security printers have been asked to phase in similar anti-fraud measures as current stocks are used up.

Since banks generally contract out the printing of cheques, the pressure is on security printers to move as quickly as possible. Bob Fellows, managing director of Multisets, a security printer, says: "Colour copiers are so good that forged documents can easily be passed off on the layman. One way round this is to use ultraviolet invisible inks that will not show up on the photocopy. The bank can verify the cheque under an ultraviolet light. If the cheque does not give off the right message, the bank will immediately be suspicious and will check whether it is genuine."

Multisets specialises in producing cheques on continuous stationery for large companies. Instead of using chequebooks that are slow to use and

soon run out, the cheques are fed through a typewriter or computer printer in the same way as an ordinary roll of paper.

Mr Fellows says that another new feature will be to use inks that are sensitive to solvents. It has been possible to use brake fluid to remove the name of the recipient of a genuine cheque or the amount payable and substitute a new name or a larger figure. The intention is to prevent details being removed selectively without damaging the whole cheque.

The market for security printing is divided between three large companies and about half a dozen smaller ones. It is an expensive business because technology is always being updated. Mr Fellows says: "It is a difficult market for a newcomer to break into because of the cost of new machinery. A newcomer would initially have to take market share from an existing printer rather than create new business."

If anything, he says, one or two security printers have dropped out. Yet despite the move towards the paperless office, security printing is not in decline and some parts of the business are growing, albeit slowly. Privatisation was accompanied by an upsurge in the issue of share certificates and a new lease of life was provided for the industry when the Stock Exchange was forced to abandon plans for Taurus, its all-electronic share dealing system.

Some companies have specialised in the distribution, rather than the printing, of security documents. One is Carvin. Ed Carson, the managing director, says: "A sophisticated network of distributors has grown up over the past 20 years. It dates back to the growth of computers. Technology was changing so quickly that printers needed to be changing their equip-



ment every five minutes to keep up. We could take supplies from several printers, each with its own specialisation.

"You would not buy a Ford car from Ford, you would go to a dealership. You would not buy a Mars Bar from Mars, you would go to a sweet shop. Manufacturers are not geared up to deal direct with the consumer."

Despite the attempts to improve

security, some in the industry feel that the problems of forgery are not always taken seriously enough. One printer, who asked not to be named, says: "The more security features shown, the better it is, but how secure are the special inks at the ink manufacturers? A security measure is only as secure as the person supplying the product and some security ink manufacturers will sell to every Tom, Dick and Harry."

He says that not enough effort is being put into making box-office tickets and store gift vouchers forgery-proof. "Some big stores never learn. It's about time they woke up. One retail chain lost £2.5 million last Christmas through forged gift vouchers. How big a hit do they need? We have got the tools for anyone who is prepared to pick up the tab. We spend a lot of money on research and we are not going to give the products away."

Printing up a forest

The printer is more popular than ever, despite the paperless office

The paperless office has arrived, but offices continue to be swamped by paper. This is largely because of the availability of comparatively cheap and reliable office printers, which means everyone can have a printout of what they see on their screen, to read at home, to check on the train or simply to provide reassurance that the machine has got it right.

Paper prices may be rising, but our appetite for documentation seems to be insatiable.

Almost 9 million printers were sold in the UK in 1993, an increase of 8 per cent on the year, according to market research by BIS Strategic Decisions. About 4 million units were inkjet printers, almost all were designed for personal use, 1.5 million more than in 1992 and the survival of a long-term mass dot matrix market seems in doubt.

Fewer than 3 million dot matrix printers were imported into the UK in 1993, 1.3 million fewer than in 1992. Forecasts suggest that by 1998, the dot matrix market will be reduced to a dwindling niche sector with just 5 per cent of total printer sales for use in areas which need high volume multi-part stationery.

However, this sector of the market is still vitally important, particularly because it offers a comparatively cheap and reliable source of printed output and it is these machines which are huge consumers of business forms.

The office-supplier Mannesmann Tally believes dot matrix will still represent 20 per cent of the total printer market by 1998 and the manufacturer Citizen agrees, claiming sales of its ABC Colour dot matrix printer are 30 per cent above market expectations. It says this proves that it is still a viable technology in the small-

office/home office market where an occasional low-cost colour capability is a bonus. However, inkjet is clearly the technology for the masses. The total UK printer market in 1993 was worth £740 million of which inkjet printers commanded a 23.6 per cent share by value, 36 per cent by units. Of that market, Canon claimed a 41 per cent share in value, 52 per cent by units.

The big four manufacturers of core inkjet technology, Canon, Epson, Hewlett Packard and Olivetti, expect to take advantage of the trend towards colour-capable inkjet printing. BIS forecasts sales of 6 million such units a year by 1998. BIS and Printer Europe. Dataquest point to the rise in the sales of laser/LED printers as an indication that the days of mono inkjet printers are numbered.

At the high-volume end of the market, analysts such as the Gartner Group, point to the advantages of IBM's strategic architecture (AFP).

Information from any source in any form can be printed out on any printer when AFP is used. Rank Xerox has launched a range of network printers featuring intuitive software, called Document Services for Printing. It enables users to search the office network for the printer that best suits the needs of the job at the time.

The advance of colour printing in the general office is also gathering pace, with thermal transfer technology the main contender. Industry analysts suggest that laser is the colour technology of the future. BIS Strategic Decisions forecasts that this sector will grow faster than colour copiers, with unit sales rising from 130 units in 1992 to 32,500 in 1997.

DAVID YOUNG

TO ADVERTISE CALL:
071 782 7936

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

FAX:
071 481 9313

NMD
NORTHWEST MICRO-DESIGN
timeware
iv
The complete time and attendance solution
Direct from the UK's leading manufacturer of computerized time management technology.
NMD
Old Estate Offices
Fieldhouse Road
Rochdale
Lancashire
OL12 0AA
Tel: 01706 59368
Fax: 01706 715375
BBS: 01706 49080

HADEN FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Facilities Management. Management Services. Consultancy

Haden Facilities provide a professional and experienced facilities management capability. With a track record built from managing in excess of 10 million sq.ft. of property we have the ability and experience to provide you with the skills you require.

We can help ensure that the environment and services of your building match your needs whatever the size and complexity of the facilities, allowing you to concentrate your management resources to your own business.

Haden Facilities Management Ltd
Summit House
Glebe Way
West Wickham Kent BR4 0RJ

Tel: 081 776 2322
Fax: 081 776 2821

Haden

NMD
NORTHWEST MICRO-DESIGN
timeware
iv
The complete time and attendance solution
Direct from the UK's leading manufacturer of computerized time management technology.
NMD
Old Estate Offices
Fieldhouse Road
Rochdale
Lancashire
OL12 0AA
Tel: 01706 59368
Fax: 01706 715375
BBS: 01706 49080

HADEN FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Facilities Management. Management Services. Consultancy

Haden Facilities provide a professional and experienced facilities management capability. With a track record built from managing in excess of 10 million sq.ft. of property we have the ability and experience to provide you with the skills you require.

We can help ensure that the environment and services of your building match your needs whatever the size and complexity of the facilities, allowing you to concentrate your management resources to your own business.

Haden Facilities Management Ltd
Summit House
Glebe Way
West Wickham Kent BR4 0RJ

Tel: 081 776 2322
Fax: 081 776 2821

Haden

Principio
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
Principio marks a new beginning in Facilities Management. A young and innovative company, we provide a wide range of proven products and services, all with one vital difference. Total Flexibility. Flexibility of approach, flexibility of package and flexibility of costs. To find out how flexible, call Justin Palmer.
01454-632310
Unit 6, The Barn, Manor Farm, Sandy Lane, Ayles, Bristol, BS12 3AT

FACILITIES SOFTWARE

QFM
The Facilities Management Software Solution
Helpdesk
Asset Performance Analysis
Contract Maintenance
Health & Safety
Invoice Reconciliation
Incident Monitoring
CAD Drawings
Scanned Images
Contractor Performance Monitoring
Service Level Agreements
Asset Management
Planned Maintenance
Fleet Management
Documents
Stores Control
Contact: Nicole Goddard on 0171 924 4870 or Fax Direct Line 0171 738 1889
Service Works Ltd, 2 Cairns Road, London SW11 1ES

Principio
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
Principio marks a new beginning in Facilities Management. A young and innovative company, we provide a wide range of proven products and services, all with one vital difference. Total Flexibility. Flexibility of approach, flexibility of package and flexibility of costs. To find out how flexible, call Justin Palmer.
01454-632310
Unit 6, The Barn, Manor Farm, Sandy Lane, Ayles, Bristol, BS12 3AT

FACILITIES SOFTWARE

QFM
The Facilities Management Software Solution
Helpdesk
Asset Performance Analysis
Contract Maintenance
Health & Safety
Invoice Reconciliation
Incident Monitoring
CAD Drawings
Scanned Images
Contractor Performance Monitoring
Service Level Agreements
Asset Management
Planned Maintenance
Fleet Management
Documents
Stores Control
Contact: Nicole Goddard on 0171 924 4870 or Fax Direct Line 0171 738 1889
Service Works Ltd, 2 Cairns Road, London SW11 1ES

TOTAL F.M.

TAYLOR WOODROW FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
For comprehensive expertise and a first class service in:
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
MAINTENANCE/WORKS MANAGEMENT
ASSET MANAGEMENT
SUPPORT SERVICES MANAGEMENT
For further information contact Dave Grundy
Tel: 081 575 9499 Fax: 081 575 8408

THE TIMES Facilities Management
We will be focusing on a specific F.M. topic monthly, within our traditional feature.
The relevant dates and topics are:-
Wednesday January 25 1995: Access Control and Security
Wednesday February 22 1995: We will be publishing a 16 page tabloid sized colour supplement in association with British Exhibitions to coincide with FM Expo '95 at Olympia.
Wednesday March 22 1995: Document Handling
Wednesday April 19 1995: Cleaning Services
For further information please call Chris O'Neill
Tel: 071 782 7936 Fax: 071 481 9313

TOTAL F.M.

TAYLOR WOODROW FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
For comprehensive expertise and a first class service in:
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
MAINTENANCE/WORKS MANAGEMENT
ASSET MANAGEMENT
SUPPORT SERVICES MANAGEMENT
For further information contact Dave Grundy
Tel: 081 575 9499 Fax: 081 575 8408

THE TIMES Facilities Management
We will be focusing on a specific F.M. topic monthly, within our traditional feature.
The relevant dates and topics are:-
Wednesday January 25 1995: Access Control and Security
Wednesday February 22 1995: We will be publishing a 16 page tabloid sized colour supplement in association with British Exhibitions to coincide with FM Expo '95 at Olympia.
Wednesday March 22 1995: Document Handling
Wednesday April 19 1995: Cleaning Services
For further information please call Chris O'Neill
Tel: 071 782 7936 Fax: 071 481 9313

هَذَا مِنْ الْأَصْلِ

Who looks after the famous Christmas tree for Trafalgar Square once it leaves Norway? Rodney Hobson reports

Caring for the big spruce

What is 75ft high and comes around once a year? The answer to this Christmas riddle is one of the most unusual, challenging and high-profile facilities management assignments. The Christmas tree which stands in Trafalgar Square, an annual gift from the people of Oslo, has arrived in London every year since 1947. Building & Property Facilities Management, under its guise as part of the Ministry of Works, has erected it and is tending it from early December to Twelfth Night.

Last year, Building & Property was privatised and its links with the public sector have been gradually freed. This year, the Christmas tree contract went out to tender from the Department of National Heritage. Building & Property won the right to carry on with its seasonal

task for another three years. Several individuals working on the project have been associated with the tradition for more than ten years. A Polish ex-serviceman, who came to Britain during the Second World War, turns up to lend his support even though he has retired. Because of its sheer size — the tree is always between 65ft and 80ft tall — the transporting of the gift from the inclement Nordic slopes is a daunting exercise in logistics. Tim Owen, the project co-ordinator, says: "Cutting the tree down is a high-tech operation carried out in quite deep snow. A large tractor clamps the tree at the bottom and three-quarters of the way up while the trunk is sawn through. The tree is then pulled out vertically until it is clear of the other trees and twisted round onto a loader. We rely on the head forester to



Shining example: a Norwegian spruce is an annual gift from the people of Oslo

pick us a good one and he has never let us down." The tree is shipped to Felixstowe docks in Suffolk, where Building & Property takes over. It is transferred to an extendable low loader and taken by road to a secure store within 25 minutes of central London.

It stays on the trailer in storage to minimise handling. On the appointed day — this year it was Monday last week — the tree has to be brought to Trafalgar Square in the dark. Mr Owen says: "It is a police requirement that all abnormal loads must use the square before 7am because of the public right of access."

When the tree is erected, it is grazed with a star and 500 white lights the size of golf balls. "We use plain decorations as a contrast to the lights on the surrounding buildings," Mr Owen says. "The bulbs drop vertically in

IN BRIEF

□ THE Hillingdon Hospital has appointed Procord to manage its facilities contracts covering catering, portering, cleaning, sterile supplies and laundry services.

The appointment of a Procord management team to act on behalf of the west London hospital in running, assessing and monitoring the contracts follows a consultancy project undertaken by Procord to guide Hillingdon Hospital in its strategic options for improving services. Company consultants worked with the Hillingdon Hospital management team to assess future needs for services, benchmark existing services, prepare contract specifications that allowed performance and quality measurement, manage the contract tender procedure and select a suitable sub-contractor.

Stewart Wood, who headed the Procord team, says: "The Hillingdon Hospital has taken the forward-looking decision to plan a strategy for maximising the value and quality of support services in the coming years."

□ AN INTERNATIONAL network which could link facilities managers in Australia, France, Britain, America, Japan, Canada and The Netherlands is being developed by the British Institute of Facilities Management (BIFM).

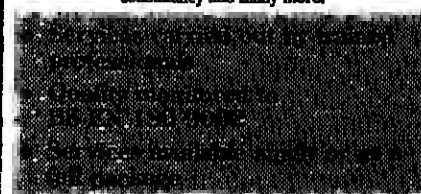
Global FM will operate from the start of the new year and will provide information on key issues for BIFM members on an international basis, foster the development of facilities management internationally, and encourage the growth of international organisations in the FM field. Global FM will be operated by a council made up of representatives of the various national facilities management organisations and the BIFM will start an on-line information service early in the new year.

□ BOOKINGS for FM EXPO on March 7 to 9 at Olympia are continuing to come in. The exhibition and conference will provide a focus for the industry. John Crawshaw, director-general of the BIFM, said FM Expo will be a shop window for the industry.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Support for Success

Success demands that you concentrate your resources where they're needed most - in your core business. Core makes that possible by providing a full range of flexible, cost-efficient support services that include cleaning, security, catering, office support, building maintenance, technical services, facilities management consultancy and many more.



For further information please call
Core Services Group on
0276 452400

care services

CORE SERVICES GROUP, CORE HOUSE, 2 THE BIRCH, WIDNES, CHeshire, WIR9 0DQ

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TELEPHONE MANAGEMENT

★ Independent, impartial advice on all aspects of voice and data communication
★ Telephone call management
★ Telephone system management
★ Helping Telecommunication help you
Chalmers Associates
Telecommunication Consultants
1 Blake Street • Congleton
Cheshire • CW12 4DS
Tel: 0268 297055
Fax: 0268 297056

HYGIENE SERVICES

PEOPLE SPENDING PENNIES could cost your organisation pounds. Unexplained illnesses, people underperforming, customers put off for life through food poisoning. In really bad cases, you could be looking at fines, closure and legal action. Environmental Health Officers can walk onto your premises, now, even as you read this. Then without warning, at their discretion, close you down. There are also serious financial consequences, people can be sent home, customers turned away, takings lost. Alternatively, Sanisolve can regularly visit, keeping toilets clean and hygienic. Proper toilet cleaning is a specialised work, let us show you what we can do, FOR FREE. Call SANISOLVE now on 0811 397 5766

MAINTENANCE

DOORMAN

Nationwide maintenance and repair of
Doors, Roller Shutters, Automatics,
Locks and Access Systems.
Full Window Service.

Call nationally: 0345 696969

THE MAINTENANCE COMPANY LTD

BENCHMARKING

BWA have over 20 m sq. ft. of Independently Audited Facilities Cost Data and 25 years experience of using it to benchmark facilities costs for some of UK and Europe's Largest Organisations. For details of how benchmarking can save you up to 2% of turnover, and a forthcoming benchmarking seminar for finance/facilities directors please contact: Bernard Williams or Mike Packham at BWA Facilities Consultants 0181-460 1111

Your switch needs changing.
Can you afford to sit there reading this paper?

Did you know that your area code changed last August?

If this comes as news to you, you're not alone. It's reckoned that over one million businesses don't know their new number. And of those who do, some 51% still haven't done anything about it.

So how has your code changed? Well, as announced by OFTEL, most area codes now have a number 1 added after the initial 0. For example, calls to London are now 0171 and 0181.

As for the five cities of Sheffield, Leicester, Leeds, Nottingham and Bristol, they now have entirely new codes. And the international access code has also changed. From 010 to 00.

All very well and good, but how does all this affect your business?

Having your call barring system updated could save you money

Put quite simply, if you don't tell customers of your code change you're making it harder for them to get in touch. And you run the risk of losing business unknowingly.

What's more, the change in code will affect your company's call barring system.

Remember that any misuse of your phone system could cost you money.

There are other things you may wish to consider too. Now that your phone number has changed, you'll need to change your company stationery, literature, databases and signage to accommodate it.

26 APRIL 2005
PHONEDAY
AREA CODES STARTING 0 WILL START 01

At BT, we believe that better communications lead to better business.

By organising and planning what you need in advance you can avoid both waste and expense. Also, by seeking professional help now you'll beat the rush for Phoneday.

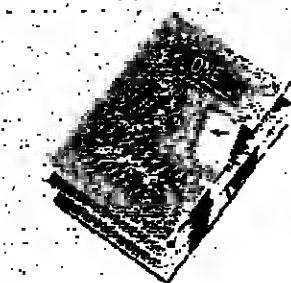
Although time isn't on your side, we are. We can help you make these changes.

Our free Phoneday pack contains all the new codes and everything your business needs to gear itself up for Phoneday.

So put down the newspaper and call our Freephone number for your copy or contact your BT Account Manager.

Can you afford not to?

BT
We want your business



Freefone
0800 01 01 01

How television has lost its novelty value

Pleasure principle changes the view

ARGUMENTS such as "common sense tells us that violent television leads to violent behaviour" usually leave me cold. Common sense, after all, tells us that the Sun goes around the Earth and that a pound of lead falls faster than a pound of feathers.

It seems plain to me, however, that more channels must mean less viewing — that, as choice increases, the temptation to flick through the lot and switch off is growing.

Most of us now are down to just under three hours of viewing a day, according to the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. Its recent report that British viewers are watching less television than at any time since 1985 attracted headlines and stirred up controversy. The trade press has since claimed that the news stories were misleading. They were said to have ignored the statistics that homes with cable and satellite view on average three hours and 15 minutes a day and that in many of the supposedly switched-off homes, the TV set is on — used for playing videos or computer games.

Even if only the four main terrestrial channels are involved, however, advertisers and policymakers seek the cause of the decline. Bad programmes and repeats have been blamed.

A simpler reason is that the novelty of television is wearing off. Today's youth, brought up on computers and videos, has no more idea of the single-channel, black-and-white set than of the privy at the bottom of the garden. The young cannot imagine how, as chronicled in the British Film Institute's excellent new *British Television*, a guide to the past 60 years, 20 million people crowded around two million small screens in 1953 to watch the Coronation.

Another BFI publication, its *Film and Television*

Handbook 1995, suggests that the Great British Public may be switching off television as it rediscovers the pleasure of going out to the pictures. Cinema admissions have more than doubled in the past nine years, from 54 million in 1984 to 114 million in 1993. And the rise is among all age groups and social classes. That is no mystery to me, for whom sitting in the dark, enveloped in Dolby sound and audience reaction is the only way to watch a film.

The cinema industry seems to credit the growth of multiplexes: more screens on



BRENDA MADDOX

more sites than ever. But other factors play a part, such as credit-card booking. It is at last possible to decide to go to the cinema on the night and to get in, rather than queuing for an hour, then failing to get a seat.

The film industry probably recognises, although it cannot say so, that at the picture palace the audience gets the chance to see the film before the television censors get at it. BBC2 and ITV are particularly hobbled by the combination of the so-called "watershed", before which no "adult" scenes or language may appear, and by schedule commitments.

WILL greater choice of TV programmes mean less arrogance among their makers? Sir Peregrine Worsthorne recently proclaimed himself a victim of accepting an invitation to be on a programme only to be "disin-

vited" at the last minute. He described how, after having accepted an invitation to appear on *Newsnight*, he spent the afternoon honing a well-turned piece only to be told that he was not delivering what had been expected.

I know the tone: I heard it last year from an acolyte of *The Late Show*. After sending me to three David Hare plays and phoning repeatedly over a week to talk about the planned discussion, I was told that it had been decided to use Polly Toynbee instead.

Fair enough, perhaps, for journalists and politicians, who should be more wary. But not for many others who have undergone the disruption of home or office by a full camera crew only to sit expectantly when the programme goes out and their contribution never appears.

Those who accept invitations to be on television should, if appropriate, ask for a fee, whether or not they appear and in every case insist on being told whether their contribution is in the end not to be used.

TWO WEEKS ago, I mis-stated the kind of service that Michael Heseltine forbids BT and Mercury from carrying over telephone lines. The Department of Trade and Industry prevents telephone companies from offering a film or any entertainment programme simultaneously to a number of homes.

That so-called "entertainment" business, similar to broadcasting, is to be reserved for cable television until 2001. BT could get into it by applying for more cable franchises, which it chooses not to do. It now owns only Westminster Cable. But BT and Mercury are allowed, if they wish, to develop on their own lines a video-on-demand service — supplying a film upon request, dialled up like a pizza — to a single home. Sorry.

Can Yentob pick winners?

The lottery may be shedding audience, but BBC1's controller is not downhearted. Look, he tells Alexandra Frean, at the successes...

Middle England is in the throes of a minor moral dilemma and is struggling to come to terms with a major cultural upheaval. As usual in such circumstances it is taking

out its pent-up and complex anxieties on that easiest of targets, the BBC.

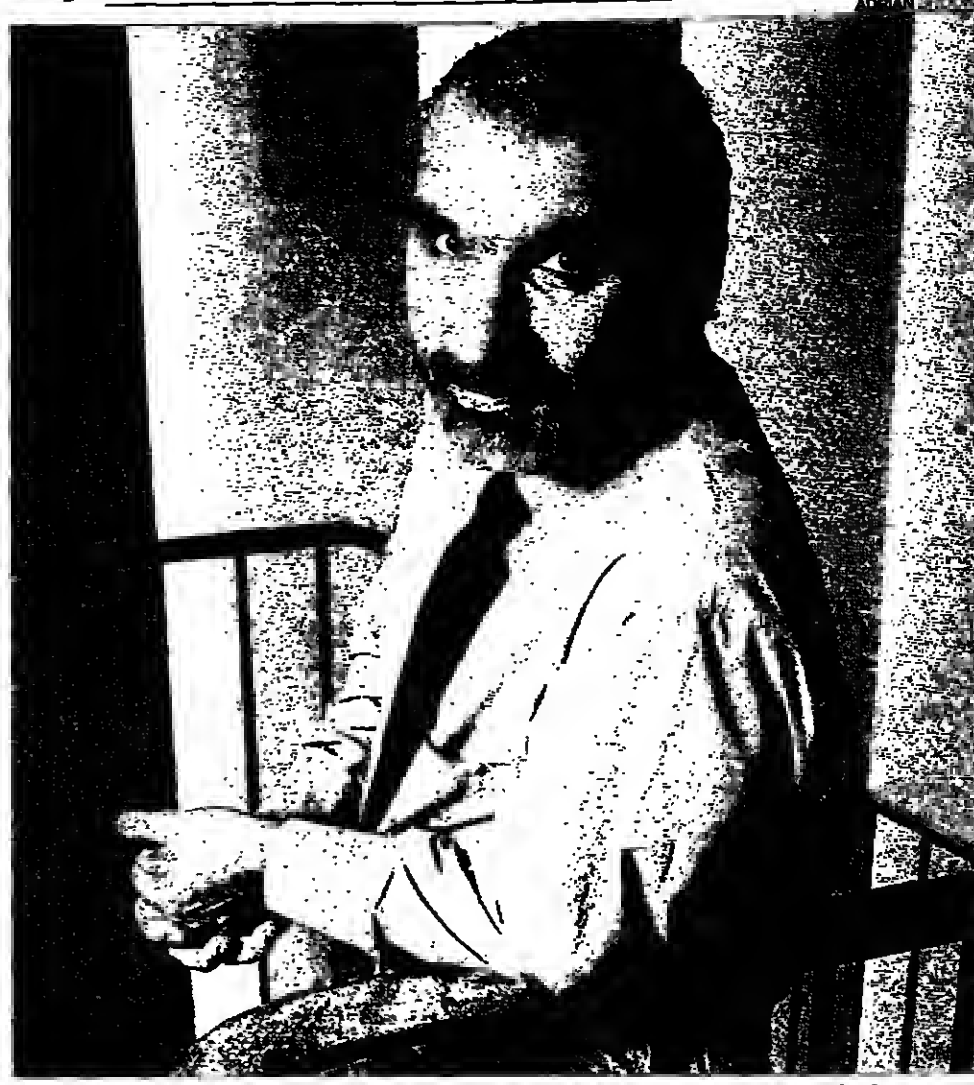
That is one explanation doing the rounds at BBC Television Centre for all the abuse being hurled at BBC1's Saturday evening National Lottery draw. The programme's audience has declined from 21 million for the first lottery draw to around 15 million three weeks later and has been described as amateurish, mindless and boring.

Alan Yentob, controller of BBC1, believes that much of the criticism of the show is motivated by snobbery. "I don't know quite what expectations people had, but obviously there is something very contentious about this huge new thing that has come in and we at the BBC are carrying some of the middle-class worry, unease and slight guilt about it," he says.

It is risible, Yentob maintains, to imagine that a programme is not successful when its audience begins to level out at 15 million viewers, roughly 54 per cent of available viewers. He adds that anybody who thought that the 15-minute programme would attract 20 million viewers week-in-week-out, is "completely mad" — an opinion that might more helpfully have been expressed before the show went on air.

Yentob insists that he is happy with the lottery programme's Pinksy and Perkysque presenters Anthea Turner and Gordon Kennedy, adding that he has received only two viewer complaints about the show. He concedes, however, that he is already discussing modifications to the format with the lottery operator, Camelot, to be introduced when the show's first four-month run, together with Turner and Kennedy's contracts, come to an end in the middle of March.

By then he hopes that a steady stream of multimillionaire jackpot winners and scores of stories about charities and other good causes will be around to lighten up the presentation. He will just have to hope that the audience



Alan Yentob: "The BBC carries some of the middle-class unease about the lottery"

won't all have defected to ITV by then. In the meantime, Yentob's tasks are, first, to scotch a few unfavourable rumours and then to get on with pushing out his new winter schedule.

So, for the record: no, he is not going to Hollywood. Nor is he being lured upstairs to Michael Grade's old job of director of programmes, leaving the control of BBC1 to David Liddiment, head of entertainment. "It's all nonsense," he says. "I feel pretty confident with what I'm doing, and so do the people who run the BBC."

Yentob's confidence is not entirely misplaced. Some senior managers at the BBC say privately that the schedule

he inherited from Jonathan Powell when he took over as BBC1 controller nearly two years ago, would have driven viewers away in droves. Yentob has certainly checked that decline.

Since his arrival, he has broadened BBC1's range of programmes, increasing science, documentary and leisure output, cutting back on repeats, reviving the classic novel adaptation and commissioning brave new dramas such as *Cardiac Arrest*.

The *Vicar of Dibley*, Dawn French's new ecclesiastical sitcom, has come straight into the ratings chart with well over 10 million viewers. BBC1 has won three International Emmy awards this

year and Yentob can also claim credit for the highest audience on a single channel in the 1990s — 25.3 million for an episode of *EastEnders* in late October.

Yentob adds that BBC1 has maintained its all-hours audience share at 32.2 per cent so far this year, while ITV's share has dropped 0.4 per cent to 39.6. BBC1 has also matched ITV's 0.3 per cent increase in peak-time audience share over the year.

What Yentob does not say is that during the all-important autumn season when audiences are biggest, BBC1's peak-time share is down 1.3 per cent this year and ITV's is up 1.1 per cent. This is partly a reflection of the BBC's inability to match ITV's popular dramas, such as *Heartbeat* (now attracting 17.5 million viewers), *London's Burning* (17 million), *Soldier, Soldier* (16 million) and *The Bill* (15 million).

Audiences for BBC1's new dramas, *Seaforth* and *Crocodile Shoes*, which have been watched by about seven million, look positively weedy by comparison. Yentob will be hoping for better results with new winter dramas which include *Dangerfield*, starring Nigel Le Vaillant as a rural police surgeon, and *Ghoste*, a six-part Saturday evening series of stories about the paranormal.

For the rest of the new schedule Yentob is playing to BBC1's strengths in comedy, documentary and classic drama. He has poached Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie's sketch from ITV. Also on the way are Sir David Attenborough's new natural history series, *The Private Life of Plants* (described by Attenborough as his best yet) and a five-part adaptation of Edith Wharton's novel, *The Buccaneers*.

But as Yentob himself emphasises, his problem is not just getting new shows on the air or in beating ITV, it is to serve a diverse audience with a wide range of programmes, from classic serials, to lottery game-shows and popular drama. And that brings us back to the basic question raised by his handling of the lottery programme. Has Yentob — known for highbrow programming when he was at BBC2 — yet developed the all-round popular touch needed at BBC1?

MEDIA SALES & MARKETING

GENERAL SALES MANAGER

A vacancy has arisen for a general sales manager. The company is a leading importer and distributor to the trade of commercial refrigeration equipment.

Ideally aged around 40, you should be self motivated and commercially minded with a number of years experience in sales and marketing. The proven ability of staff and department management is essential. A knowledge of the commercial refrigeration market would be an advantage.

Your brief will include managing and motivating a small but busy sales department and to develop the existing client base whilst generating new business.

A competitive salary along with the usual benefits of such a position will be offered to the right applicant.

Please write with full C.V. to: Stephen Hockings, Commercial Director, Coggins Welch Ltd, Canal Forge, Plox Brow, Tarleton, Preston PR4 6HB.



CONSULTANT

£ Excellent Basic + Bonus
We are looking for 2 recruitment consultants to complement our team of five. You will work in an atmosphere second to none. We want you to thrive and reap the rewards of your own efforts. There is an existing first-class base to be nurtured and expanded.

As you will be a graduate with at least 8 months sales experience, we do not expect you to be constrained by unrealistic targets as you will already be a self-motivated achiever in any event.

We supply bilingual secretaries and other support staff to the most prestigious clients in the London area.

Please telephone us and speak to Marie Echler.

Appointments in English
071 355 1975 / 071 734 3380.
Fax 071 499 0568.

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

LEAKAGE NEG. CENTRAL LONDON
For 21 years Legal Opportunities has been a byword for integrity and professionalism in legal recruitment throughout the U.K.

Our fully-funded expansion plans and relocation to Central London create a superb opportunity for an ambitious Recruitment Consultant (not necessarily with legal experience) to substantially advance his/her career.

Contact Chris Meade in strictest confidence on 081 360 0081 (0252 795606 even/weekends)

Legal Opportunities

One of our clients, a leading Design Consultancy based in Oxfordshire, wishes to make a key appointment

Consultant/Director

experienced in the Leisure and Retail sector, we are looking for someone who can demonstrate a clear understanding of the effectiveness of design with responsibility for...

new business development
key account management
developing marketing and strategic solutions that can be realised through design

the opportunity...

as Director designate you will have the chance to make a significant contribution towards the future development and management of the company to work on a wide variety of blue chip accounts

the candidate...

you are aged around 35, authoritative and able to communicate your expertise at board level, have a proven track record and are looking to secure your future with a successful design consultancy

benefits...

substantial package
share option

Reply in confidence, attaching your CV, to

Cameron Clark, Partner

NEVILLE RUSSELL

Chartered Accountants

Prima House 267 Banbury Road Oxford OX2 7YA

BASE METALS PRODUCER

REGIONAL MARKETING MANAGER

EUROPE & USA

circa £40,000 p.a.

Based in London, and reporting to the Sales & Marketing Manager, the candidate will be responsible for the successful marketing of physical nickel products in European and US markets.

Candidates will be graduates, preferably in metallurgy, and have a minimum 5 years proven experience in the selling and marketing of base metals. Languages will be a definite advantage.

Extensive overseas travel is required, and the ability to build relationships with customers, conduct market research, identify new opportunities and to work in a team environment is essential.

Send your full C.V. including salary details to
Box No 2513, The Times Newspapers,
PO Box 3553, Virginia St, London E1 9GA.

European Marketing Managers

£35,000

Do you believe in the power of brands? Can you operate confidently on a pan-European basis? Are you excited by entertainment or sports?

Fruit of the Loom has a group turnover of over \$2 billion world-wide, and is one of the largest global apparel brands. They have major licensing agreements with NBA, NFL, Wilson sportswear and Disney and are aggressively expanding their European business. They now seek ambitious marketing professionals to build and manage the growth of the Fruit of the Loom brand and to launch and develop Disney licensed clothing across Europe.

THE POSITION

- Assume classical European marketing management responsibility.
- Develop pan-European marketing strategies.
- Provide marketing leadership & support to country sales teams to achieve sales targets.
- Lead the product development process.
- Handle all aspects of the marketing mix, including European advertising and promotion.

THE PERSON

- Graduate, fluent in English and one other European language.
- 3-5 years FMCG/Licensing/Sports marketing experience.
- Previous European marketing experience on advantage.
- Highly motivated with excellent personal presentation.

Both positions will demand regular European travel.

Interested parties should apply in writing with a CV to K/F Associates, 252 Regent Street, London W1R 5DA quoting ref. 4923/C.



K/F ASSOCIATES
Selection & Search



University of Oxford

University Offices

Assistant Press Officer

Academic-related Administrative Grade 1

Salary £13,941 - £15,566 with a discretionary

range to £17,813

Applications are invited for appointment as Assistant Press Officer within the External Relations Office of the University's central administration. This is a new fixed-term, three-year post which would suit someone starting a career in the media or an enthusiastic young graduate. Essential skills include writing ability and initiative, as the work of the Press Office involves all aspects of Oxford University's external relations with the press and media as well as internal relations with colleges and departments.

Further particulars are available from the Deputy Registrar (Administration), University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD (Tel. 0865 270009), to whom applications, including a curriculum vitae and the names of two referees, should be sent by 13 January 1995.

The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer

A major international money broker seeks Japanese business adviser

in their London office. The successful applicant is unlikely to be under 40 and must be fluent in both written and spoken Japanese to mother tongue standard. They must have,

- a minimum 10 years experience dealing in the Japanese money markets,
- extensive personal contacts with senior Japanese bankers in London & Europe,
- minimum 2 years experience as a senior broker with an international money broker,
- a complete understanding of all currency, money and capital market products.

Please send a full curriculum vitae, in English, to:
PO Box: 2603
c/o Times Newspapers, PO Box 3553, Virginia Street, London E1 9GA.



THEATRE page 34
A melodramatic heroine
struggles against
misplaced comedy in
The Little Match Girl

ARTS

GALLERIES page 35
John Piper: a style of
painting so distinctive
and rich it makes us
want to look twice



LITERATURE: Nicolette Jones charts a year of unprecedented bickering and undreamt-of successes

Tales from behind the bookshelves

It has been a contentious year in the book trade. Authors have taken issue with their publishers: booksellers have been useful to help them to sell books; literary editors have bad-mouthed literary adjudicators in a way that made the Cold War look trivial (as it already was to one); and the public has objected to what is perceived as exploitation in the publishing industry. The trade has always had its disputes, but 1994 came close to burying that persistent myth of gentlemanliness.

The year also proved that treason is not what it was. When Anna Pasternak's book *Princess in Love* was published in October, alleging an affair between the Princess of Wales and Major James Hewitt, heads did not roll. Drums did. Publication was announced by *Princess in Love* with such fanfare that 45,000 copies sold out in 24 hours. Sales soon slowed down, though, and Pasternak's Mills and Boon-ish prose met with a hostile press.

While Joanna Trollope, one of *Princess in Love*'s most successful authors, was moved to write to the company expressing her disapproval, rights in the book were nonetheless sold in 14 foreign countries.

In November Jonathan Dimbleby's *The Prince of Wales: A Biography* aimed to offer a rehabilitating portrait of the heir to the throne, but this and its related documentary drew fire both for the Prince's apparent admission of infidelity and for his unconventional views on being the head of the Church. Royal biographer Andrew Morton also penned a new book, *Diana: Her New Life*. It failed to have the impact of his first Diana opus, however: extracts did little to boost sales of *The Sunday Times*.

These royal books raised an important question. Not "should monarchy survive?", but "should serialisation survive?". Sales of *Princess in Love* benefited from the decision not to run extracts in any of the newspapers.

It was a good year for the Booker Prize, though. There were fierce arguments at every stage, which always enhances its impact. First of all, one of the judges, James Wood, was accused of not declaring an interest in a novel by his wife, Claire Messud. He defended himself with the argument that he had not believed the book was a serious contender. The public may have been appeased, but was his wife?

When the shortlist was announced it turned out to include a book that had not been able to find a British publisher, and was eventually printed by the author. Jill Paton Walsh's *Knowledge of Angels*, which had been published in the US, was stopped by the "culture of anxiety" that stopped it from taking risks. The shortlist as a whole was unpopular with booksellers: one described it unhelpfully as a "Mogadon" list.

But this was nothing to the kerfuffle over the final judging. Rabbi Julia Neuberger called the

voting system a "shambles". The winner, James Kelman's internal monologue of a disadvantaged Glaswegian, *How Late It Was, How Late*, was, said the Rabbi, "deeply inaccessible for a lot of people". Simon Jenkins fulminated against it in these pages; literary editors were disparaging. The chairman of Bookers, Sir Michael Caine, retaliated by saying that "these days literary editors seemed united by their common dislike of literature".

The biographical controversy of the year (if you discount those royal books) was triggered by rival views of the late Graham Greene. The official biographer, Norman Sherry, brought Greene up to the 1950s with the second substantial volume of his *A Life of Graham Greene*, which, apart from some revelations about Greene's extramarital affairs, was largely sympathetic. But Michael Shelden's exposé, *Graham Greene: The Man Within*, accused Greene of being an alcoholic, a liar, a closet homosexual and an active member of the Secret Service all his life. A third opinion was expressed by Greene's confessor, and his friend and travelling companion for 27 years, Father Leopoldo Duran, whose somewhat ill-defined memoir, *Graham Greene: Friend and Brother*, portrayed Greene as a man of piety and good works.

In his lifetime, Greene might have been a contender for laurels awarded by *The Sunday Times* in March. Authors and critics were invited to nominate "the greatest writer now working in English". Saul Bellow came out on top, followed by John Updike, with Muriel Spark and Iris Murdoch (a subsequent favourite with readers) in contention. More remarkable, though, was the fact that Jeanette Winterson, notorious for once having recommended her own novel as her book of the year, chose herself, with the assertion that "No one working in the English language now comes close to my exuberance, my passion, my fidelity to words." Her new novel, *Art and Lies*, went on to get short shrift from the critics.

Perhaps it is appropriate in the context of greatest novelists to mention the supermodel Naomi Campbell. Or not. Her fiction debut, *Swan*, was perceived by many members of the public as the ultimate in cynical marketing. No secret was made of the fact that her book was (co-)written by editor Caroline Upcher, under the pen name Carly McIntyre. The publishers, for their part, redefined a word

by declaring that though Campbell did not write the book, she was "very much the author". Despite all this, the book made it into the bestseller lists — and was held to be much more of a success than Campbell's simultaneous debut as a pop singer.

As her Wimbledon career came to a close, Martina Navratilova also made a foray into fiction, with the first of three novels, confessedly co-authored with Liz Nickles. *The Total Zone* concerns a "fan" who stalks a tennis player; Navratilova seems at least to have contributed her insider knowledge.

Stephen Spender took offence this year at a novel written by David Leavitt, *White England Sleeps*, which he accused of stealing an episode from his autobiography *World Within World*. Leavitt saw no harm in using a real incident as inspiration, but the publishers agreed after court proceedings to recall and pulp existing copies and republish with minor changes.

POP

Lowe hits new high

THE TONE of the reference entry on Nick Lowe has always depended on who was writing the encyclopaedia. To some he is a new-wave midwife from his time attending the birth of Stiff Records. To others, with his subsequent series of user-friendly 45s, Lowe championed "pure pop for new people".

Others again mark him down as the masterful producer of the early Elvis Costello canon. To those with the longest memories of all, and those who saw one of his skeletons turned out recently on *Later with Jools Holland*, "Basher" is an unreformed pub-rock star with his distant past by Brinsley Schwarz.

Part of his great charm these days is that Lowe does not run from any of those references but now, in his mid-40s, has the maturity (not to mention the bank balance) to run at his own pace and not pursue the pop mainstream.

Hence the appearance lately, at venues from Tokyo to Leeds, of a thoroughly superior pub-rock combo. Nick Lowe and the Impossible

Nick Lowe
Empire, W12

Birds — specialties: country-rock and rock 'n' roll — boast the might of drummer Bobby Irwin, bassist Paul Riley, keyboard-accordion ace Gerald Watkins and, on guitar, Bill Kirchen, once Commander Cody's right-hand man in country-rock pioneers the Lost Planet Airmen.

This is the line-up that plays on Lowe's delightful new album, *The Impossible Bird*, a record that wears its country influences boldly but takes them home to Brentford to meet the locals. Thus Lowe, looking relaxed, treated the Shepherd's Bush audience to such characteristic wryness as "Where are the children 2.3/That were meant to be sent to me?" on "Where's My Everything?" On another new song, "14 Days", his character walks out on his woman with one last aside. "In two weeks' time, you will notice I've been gone, for 14 days."

Such a twang in the team does not allow for a reprise of that power-pop period of "I Love the Sound of Breaking Glass", but Lowe & Co delivered a splendid "Cruel to be Kind" and a selection of his more traditionally-inspired oldies. Returning alone, Lowe performed the superb, autobiographical "The Beast in Me", recently covered by his ex-father-in-law, Johnny Cash. A new two-way family favourite.

PAUL SEXTON



CONCERT: A memorable Gerontius

An impassioned dream of reality

TO DISCOVER who are the critics at a concert, watch for the people who leap for the door at the end. This time, however, most of my colleagues remained in their seats, thoughtfully silent, overwhelmed by the extraordinary power of Sir Colin Davis's reading with the London Symphony Orchestra of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*. So it was with me.

For many, myself included, *Gerontius* affirmed a firm faith through the sequence of death, purgatory and eternal life is only its topmost layer. It is a more, generally pertinent, piece about bringing us face to face with our own deaths and deaths of those close to us.

Most potently, it brings to mind specific griefs. Even though its departing point is the staid old Victorian oratorio, it transcends its origins and takes flight on wings of impassioned inspiration forcing us to confront our deepest fears and to wonder anew at what it is really like to die. That was the effect of this mighty performance, in which the LSO, sustaining its excellent form, was at one with Davis's matchless vision.

No, everything was perfect. Anthony Michaels-Moore declared himself unfit because of a cold, and there was a huskiness — not unattractive — in the upper registers of his voice. But still the impassioned sound he made as Priest and Angel of Agony was a marvellous one, big and round and well-lubricated. Thomas Moser, as Gerontius, man and soul, disappointed.

There was a hint of flatness and strain when he sang at less than full volume, but more seriously he sometimes seemed reluctant to realise the full drama of the moment, as though over-conscious of the sacredness of the piece.

Sometimes, too, he swallowed his words, and that glorious moment near the end, when he sings "Take me away", lacked fearsome urgency, though its corresponding cry in Part One, "Novissima hora est", duly sent shivers down the spine. If she lacked the rapt concentration of a Janet Baker, Anne Sofie von Otter was a sympathetic, bright-voiced Angel, and the London Symphony Chorus sang high impeccably, whether as rasping devils or sweetly boyish angels.

STEPHEN PETTIT

CHRIS BARBER

40th Anniversary Tour
Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1
THIS FRIDAY, 16 DECEMBER at 7.45pm
The original 1954 Chris Barber Band
The Lonnie Donegan Skiffle Group
Chris Barber's Jazz and Blues Band
Tel: 011-420. Box Office 071 928 8800

From Wotan to ringmaster

The celebrated bass John Tomlinson is making his operatic directing debut with Verdi's early work, *Oberto*

Britain's leading Wagner bass, John Tomlinson, has temporarily given up Wotan's spear, or one-way traffic sign as it appeared in Covent Garden's recent *Ring*. Instead he has been sitting in the director's chair.

Tomorrow sees the opening of *Oberto* at the Grand Theatre in Leeds. This is the first time Tomlinson has produced an opera and he will also be singing the title role. *Oberto* is also Verdi's first opera and there were five years of struggle before it saw the inside of a theatre, although the house in question was La Scala, Milan.

Tomlinson's decision both to stage and sing *Oberto* was taken but three months ago. Nicholas Payne, while he was still in charge of Opera North, had persuaded Tomlinson to turn to early Verdi and take a break from *The Ring*. He has been the regular Wotan at Bayreuth and the Deutsche Staatsoper, Berlin, as well as in London. Ian Judge was engaged as producer. Earlier this year Judge began to get cold feet about *Oberto*, which he found too awkward and weak, and pulled out. Opera North turned to Tim Albery, who thought rather better of the piece, but eventually he too said no. So at the end of August Opera North had a cast which had been learning a virtually unknown work but no one to tell them what to do.

At this point John Tomlinson offered his own services. Had he previously guarded a few secret directorial ambitions? "Absolutely not. If someone had told me a year ago that I was going to direct an opera I would have put the idea right out of their mind. I'm an old warrior in theatre now — a bit like Oberto himself — with almost 25 years on stage, but I've never considered myself as a director. Why? I might have the visual and the dramatic qualifications, but I cannot claim the academic knowledge. Anyway, I enjoy singing and people reckon I'm quite good at it."

So was this just pressure of

circumstances? "In part I had assigned three months and more of my life to *Oberto* and so had the rest of the cast. None of us wanted to see it disappear overnight. But earlier in the summer while rehearsing the Bayreuth *Ring* in my free days I was studying *Oberto* and beginning to have a few ideas about it. There are so many of the seeds there of later Verdi, not just in the music but also in the plot. The story of the father (Oberto) seeking vengeance for his wronged daughter has obvious parallels with *Rigoletto*. But I also see *Oberto* as the representative of a conquered people. Here the *Aida* element comes in because we have two ladies, one representing the victors and the other the vanquished, fighting for the tenor's hand in marriage. You could see *Oberto* as an interrupted wedding ceremony."

Parts of *Oberto* are static, with formal Donizettian choruses. Verdi has not yet had the courage to break out from time to time from the established aria-followed-by-cabaletta formula. Tomlinson's job has been to put some flesh on these all-too-operatic bones, sidestep the "awkward moments", including some rapid and none-too-easily explained changes of scene. He discussed the weaknesses with Ian Judge, an old friend, but came up with his own solution.

Tomlinson is rare among international singers in preferring to work with directors who put their personal stamp on the production: men like Harry Kupfer and Richard Jones. When Jones appeared on stage to thunderous boos on the opening night of the Covent Garden *Rheingold* Tomlinson was the man who led him out. He claims that he was "assigned" the task, but he probably would have elected to do it anyway.

Tomlinson's personal stamp



Driving the "combine harvester": John Tomlinson, right, offers director's advice on the set of *Oberto*

on *Oberto* is to move it out of the 13th century, where Verdi set it, to the first quarter of the present one. "I wanted to emphasise the generational gap and to show that Oberto himself has almost outlived his time. You can hardly do this by leaving the whole thing back in 1228, when to our eyes one generation looks much like another. Move it up to the period around the First World War and the contrast can be made, especially through costume, between Victorian formality and post-1918 hedonism. It is also a wonderful advantage having an opera which very few people know: you don't have to begin by struggling against preconceived ideas."

Tomlinson is a burly, bearded Lancastrian whose stamina has never been in question. Weeds do not sing Wotan, Boris or Rossini's Mosé, the role which led to his first Bayreuth invitation in the mid-1980s. So how demanding has this first excursion into singing and directing been? "Extremely. Throughout I've used an understudy wherever we've been rehearsing, because I've always had to spend most of the time at the director's desk. It's only at the end of the day that I've been able to join in with the rest of the cast."

"At the beginning the adrenalin really flows: it's like being at the controls of a mammoth combine harvester for the first time — you ask yourself whether you really have all this power beneath you. But then you realise the huge gap between the objective stance of the director and purely subjective role of the performer. If I did the double again then I'd almost certainly go for an opera where the bass role was less prominent."

John Tomlinson leaves the impression that he has rather enjoyed being at the controls of

that combine harvester and may be tempted again, Wotan permitting. "Well it does avoid one question. I'm constantly asked in public and in private why I just don't countermand the orders of directors who ask me to do out-of-the-ordinary things on stage, especially in Wagner. If you're in charge, at least that one doesn't arise."

JOHN HIGGINS

Oberto opens at the Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 499351) tomorrow

While there's nothing like a dame, there's nothing like a Theatre Token.

Give someone a great night out at any show at over 150 theatres nationwide, including all of London's West End.

Simply buy Theatre Tokens at selected branches of WH Smith and James Thin Booksellers and through Tickets London 0171-416 6012 or

Call our 24 hour Tokenline 0171-240 8800

THEATRE TOKENS

LONDON

THE THREEPENNY OPERA. Opening night for Tom Hollander, singing Hachisch in Kurt Weill's opera. Words by the team of writers customarily known as "Berolt Bracht". Phyllida Lloyd directs. Design by Vicky Mortimer; new song lyrics by Jenny Sime. Dominion Warehouse, Eastham St, WC2 (071-359 1732). Tonight, 7pm. Mon-Sat 8pm; mat 2.30pm and Sat 3pm.

LAMMAS. Jazz, folk and classical music in the work of the group, winner of the Best Small Ensemble category at the 1993 British Jazz Awards. A highlight of tonight's end-of-year concert is the world premiere of Tim Garland's *Circle Suite*, written for Lammas and Oupis 20 String Septet. Parnell Room, South Bank, SE1 (071-382 8900). Tonight, 8pm.

CHRISTMAS OFF THE WEST END. The regular team of David Cogan (writer) and Philip Hedley (director) offer a two-a-day colourful house-up of *Sleeping Beauty* over in Stratford East. There's more piano in Hadeney as Barry Oyer and Michelle Collins star in Jack and the Beanstalk Theatre and Horton Hall's famous Victorian music hall is transformed into a fully rigged set for *Christmas, Voyage to Treasure Island*, a concoction that blends Stevenson's treasure island with the historical figures of famous women pirates. Royal Stratford East, Garry Raffaele Square, E15 (011-434 0310). Mon-Sat 2.15 and 7.15pm; until Jan 28. Hedley's *Stratford East*, SE8 (011-385 2420). Today, 10.30am and 5pm; until Jan 14. Horton Hall, Hoxton

THE CLANDERINE MARRIAGE. Nigel Hawthorne among the cast of the play. Some clever supporting performances. Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (011-494 5041). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm and Dec 21 and 28, 2.30pm.

FASCINATING AIDA. The girls are back with an evening of glamour, quick wit and sharp tongues. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5050). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat 8pm and 8.15pm. Until Jan 21.

GRIMM TALES. Hansel and Gretel and other tales recorded by the Brothers Grimm. Carol Ann Duffy (adapter) and Tim Sullivan (director) have a great story to tell. Young Vic, 65 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6383). Mon-Sat, at different times. Until Jan 21.

ION. Nicholas Wright directs. Europe's top comedy, newly described as "a drama of epic characters with domestic problems". Superb performances led by the Brothers Grimm. Carol Ann Duffy (adapter) and Tim Sullivan (director) have a great story to tell. Young Vic, 65 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6383). Mon-Sat, at different times. Until Jan 21.

OLIVER! Lavish revival of Barrie's merry musical. Low on social comment but on tunes. Jonathan Pryce as Fagin. Palladium, Argyl St, W1 (011-494 5000). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm and Sat 2.30pm.

A PASSIONATE WOMAN. Stephen Cole plays a woman who is rather on the odd and dream man.

NEW RELEASES

ABOVE THE RIM (15). A black-and-white comedy about a black man who is a white man. Directed by Spike Lee. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

JUNIOR (PG). A comedy about a young boy who is a girl. Directed by David Zucker. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE PUNK AND THE PRINCESS (15). A comedy about a punk who is a princess. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT (15). A comedy about a man who is a woman. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

CORRINA, CORRINA (PG). A comedy about a woman who is a man. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

CRONOS (18). A horror about a man who is a woman. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE PUNK AND THE PRINCESS (15). A comedy about a punk who is a princess. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT (15). A comedy about a man who is a woman. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

CORRINA, CORRINA (PG). A comedy about a woman who is a man. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

CRONOS (18). A horror about a man who is a woman. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE PUNK AND THE PRINCESS (15). A comedy about a punk who is a princess. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT (15). A comedy about a man who is a woman. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

CORRINA, CORRINA (PG). A comedy about a woman who is a man. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

CRONOS (18). A horror about a man who is a woman. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE PUNK AND THE PRINCESS (15). A comedy about a punk who is a princess. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT (15). A comedy about a man who is a woman. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

CORRINA, CORRINA (PG). A comedy about a woman who is a man. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

CRONOS (18). A horror about a man who is a woman. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE PUNK AND THE PRINCESS (15). A comedy about a punk who is a princess. Directed by John Hughes. PG. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

Street, N1 (071-738 5431). This Fri, 7.30pm. Sat, 3pm and 7.30pm; check box office for schedule; until Jan 14.

ELSEWHERE. BLACKPOOL. Massimo Mondoni's production of A Christmas Carol for Northern Ballet Theatre is a welcome change from the many Nutcrackers on stage all around the country. Glorious costumes and sets; a "musical dance drama" complete with flying carols. Church Street (0253 28372). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm; until Dec 24.

EDINBURGH. The American mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade makes her only UK appearance this year tonight, with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Her programme is devoted to areas from 12 of Offenbach's operas, which she is recording with the SCO following the concert. Usher Hall, Clerk Street (011-228 1168). Tonight, 7.45pm. (G)

MANCHESTER. Take a break with the 1932 Philadelphia local for a brief Lunchtime Prom, an hour of works by Prokofiev, Capriccio and Rimsky-Korsakov. Van Pelt's Toller conduct. The Royal Albert Hall, Albert Square, 12.45pm. No ticket required.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

stand her son's wedding. Ned Sherrin directs Kay Moller's entertaining, though lightweight comedy. New Theatre, Finsbury Street, SW1 (071-382 1731). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat 2.30pm and Sat 3pm.

AL AFTER ANGEL IN AMERICA. Tom Kistner and John Wood. Confronted and to Russia. Matthew Lloyd directs a splendid cast that includes Imelda Staunton, Ron Cook, Paul Jessel, Andrew G. S. and Peter Copley. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW1 (071-722 0301). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat 2.30pm.

THREE TALL WOMEN. Maggie Smith, Frances de la Tour and Anastasia Smith show how youthful high spirits partly into grand old age. Superb performances in Albee's drama. Wyndham, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-359 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat 2.30pm and Sat 3pm.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. Patrick Barlow (aka Desmond O'Grady) and the National Theatre of Great Britain present the annual Christmas return to the mermaid. National (Odeon), South Bank, SE1 (071-359 1732). Today, 2.30pm and 7.15pm. Odeon tomorrow (G)

A PASSIONATE WOMAN. Stephen Cole plays a woman who is rather on the odd and dream man. National (Odeon), South Bank, SE1 (071-359 1732). Today, 2.30pm and 7.15pm. Odeon tomorrow (G)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol () on release across the country

HIGHLANDER III: THE SORCERER (15). Incontinent addition to the intense saga about Checco Zalone's wandering immortal. Director, Andy Morahan. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS (PG). The King of Halloween in his take on Christmas. Technically brilliant, but a little over-the-top. Directed by Tim Burton. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THE SHADOW (12). Labourer adventures of the 1930s. Directed by John Huston. MCA Home Video (071-359 1732).

THEATRE: Hans Andersen with seasoning; Caribbean frolics; and cowboy cavorting

Christmas jollity? Not this time

The Little Match Girl
Lyric, Hammersmith

KIERKEGAARD was known as the Gloomy Dane, but the works of his contemporary Hans Andersen cannot be called a barrel of laughs either. A few of his characters wander among the hazards of life to reach a happy ending but not the heroine of the tale Neil Bartlett has chosen to dramatise for his Christmas show. Hungry and shivering, she lights her matches to warm her little hands at the little flames — everything about her is described by Andersen as little, except her hair. In three visions she sees a warming fire, food and a Christmas tree, then she burns all the remaining matches and dear, dead Granny comes to take her up to heaven, leaving her body — sorry, her little body — to freeze to death. It is all over in nine paragraphs.

That the story can be effectively dramatised was proved by the ingenious and charming version put on at the Orange Tree three Christmases ago, set in Edwardian London with dancing appearances by streetwalkers, pearly kings and a circus strongman. What the little match girl's rough night on the streets cannot mix with — is jolly japes from the Forkbeard Fantasy Brothers (Chris and Tim Britton) playing incompetent angels, bell-bellied snowmen, monstrous ladies with dogs, council workmen — "Keener cleaners for your thorough borough" — and tops in powdered wigs, all of whom appear in this production.

Jollity is a necessary constituent of the visions, or can be made to seem so, and the most attractive sequence at the Lyric brought on an impressive roast turkey (Steve Fortune's head poking out from one end), a dozen dancing



Uneasy match: Sian Reeves, a melodramatic heroine struggling against inappropriate comic interludes

sprouts, and three spoonfuls of mashed potato, joined together at the waists and sprinkled with parsley. Bartlett's lyrics are at their friendliest here: "It makes you feel a trolop / To be served up as a doll." I admit that there is absolutely no reason why being dillolped should make a potato feel this but the rhyme is original.

Leah Hausman's very ordinary production does nothing to give the visions

a magical feel. Gauges go up and down, lighting dims or brightens; barefoot Sian Reeves, who certainly looks chilly in her thin, green slip, allows her drawn face to light up with a smile and retreats to the side of the stage to watch, say, the animated turns on a wall do their turn. The urgency of her need comes and goes but it is contradicted at every re-entry of the Forkbeard Fantasy pair, grim-

sing and bumping into each other. There is also a Scottish Grannie (Terry Neeson), who only offers visitors when clearly she has the power to hand over a winning lottery ticket if she chose. Her idea of comforting the girl is to say to her, "Tell yourself it's not happening". I tried it myself but it doesn't work.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Reviving a happy tradition

Maskerade
Cochrane, WCI

THE Cochrane's festive family show, an unusual musical presented by Talawa, comes all the way from the Caribbean. The pleasure of *Maskerade* is that it revives Jonkunnu. That is the street theatre of Jamaica with which slaves originally celebrated a few days of freedom at Christmas. Masked and splendidly costumed, they made merry in their fiery, yet simultaneously satirised their over-dressed overlords.

Jonkunnu, as director Yvonne Brewster re-creates it, is something like an Old English mummer play mixed with the Notting Hill Carnival. Pichie Patchie — purging evil and costumed in coloured ribbons — rushes about like a rag carpet with a mind of its own. Meanwhile, the old King, with a mask painted like a playing-card royal and a three-foot crown, battles to the death over possession of his Queen with the foppish Suitor-Prince. The King is then

resurrected by a ridiculous doctor: a witch doctor doing unlikely things with a witch doctor. The Jonkunnu drama is a play-in-a-play. It takes the visitors to release the cast. Before this they have been playing the locals of Kingston getting supposedly comically ensnared in love rivalries even as they prepare to die ironically fitting parts in the street drama. It is December 1841: the year of the Jonkunnu riots that culminated in the tradition's suppression. But the company energy seems squashed al-

ready, not doing Sylvia Wynter's lively script justice. They are unimpaired, some inaudible. The set, creating a town out of bamboo blinds, is pretty. However, energy seems to disperse into its spaciousness.

Isra Makulohwe, the trained dancer of the company, is actually irritatingly incongruous, making earthy sexy movements effectively balletic. Cy Grant's Narrator is ill-at-ease: it is like watching Jacob Bronowski trying to get on down and be wizardy. Allister Bain as Driver, the ageing local with his eye on a girl, gives an unsure performance. Still, Angela Wynter, as Driver's jilted amour, pinpoints comic caricature with her back arched in a blend of suspicion and vanity. And, when the end twists into tragedy, she sings a negro spiritual lament with mellow grief.

KATE BASSETT

Low budget, high spirits

Calamity Jane
BAC, Battersea

Wild Bill, dashing Danny, and pretty Katie vie and eventually pair off. A mighty crowd of young performers shows willing. Deadwood has its lively bouts of side-kicking, knee-smacking comedy cavorting, but the Steam Industry can't fully cope with the show's demands. The *en masse* singing is hearty, but soloists verge on the flat or faltering. Wild Bill looks nervous (though Jason Griffiths

proved heroic, carrying on with blood trickling down his face after cracking his head on the bar). When it comes to the love duet between Danny and Katie, a couple of smoochy glove-puppet dogs raise enough laughter to drown the music.

Patricia Villa, as the growling saloon broad Mrs Miller, is not alone in hamming up the comedy. But she does sing "The Black Hills of Dakota" with beautiful huskiness. Tina Deen cuts a fine figure as Chicago showgirl Adelaide Adams. "It's Ratty I'm Planning to Marry" turns into a terrifically tongue-in-cheek, on-the-cheap routine as Miss Adams's camp chorus line flaps around her waving cardboard

stars. However, given Willmott's commitment to gay theatre, his shallow exploration of the story's cross-dressing and cross-attractions is disappointing.

Leigh McDonald's boisterous Calamity looks the cowboy walk with puerile pointing east and west but, in her whippersnapper numbers her vocal cords sound over-exaggerated. It is only when she lets the woman inside her loose, confessing her secret love for Bill, that McDonald finds her voice, flooding the space with song.

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

SPINK, Chinese Textiles. Exhibition, 5-22 December. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.15am-5pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

THEATRES

ADELPHI

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494 5000.

THEATRES

ADELPHI

"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Will St John. Sun 12.30pm. 101, Regent St, London W1. Tel: 011-494

VISUAL ART: A multimedia feast; new work inspired by old masters; Chepik's Paris obsession

The pick of the Piper collection

Jim McCue views John Piper's work, which proves that drawing in one medium often means drawing on another

John Piper used colour and shape quite separately. It is as though the right lobe did not know what the left lobe was doing. But you have to hand it to him: he evolved a style distinctive and rich, which makes us look again.

His best-known works are his paintings of architectural exteriors. Whether grand or homely, these are buildings that have marked the spot for generations: special, immemorial places which Piper painted both in and out of time. The draughts-

man would draw, with wonderful feeling for the curve of a Norman arch or the bulk of a castle keep, and then the colourist would superimpose the feeling of the moment.

Two strands of Piper's self-training were at work. From boyhood he had gone looking at churches, and by 14 he had visited every one in his native Surrey (one wonders whether early sketchbooks survive?). Then after art school, in the late 1920s and the 1930s, he came under the influence of great modernists such as Braque, Mondrian, Arp and Brancusi, and exhibited in avant-garde shows with the 7-8-5 Society, which allowed only non-representational pieces.

A small 1936 *Abstract Composition*, from the collection of his widow, Myfanwy, is included in "John Piper: From his Studio" at the Berkeley Square Gallery, but there is nothing personal about it, and something half-hearted. With no identifiable subject, what was there to feel about? Piper was too late on the scene for the new theories to be his own, and was anyway too much the practical man. He learnt from abstraction, but had his own attachments, and these claims became the more pressing under the threat of war. His book *English Romantic Artists of 1942* accordingly highlights Blake, Palmer and Turner.

Subscribing fully to the modernist movement might have meant disowning his love of weather, the built heritage and texture (some lovely slate rubbings in the show). Instead, Piper brought the two together. From his paintings of bombed churches onwards, many of his pictures offer both an architectural representation and a more or less independent arrangement of exuberant colour. In some cases the colours relate approximately to the contours and the tones of stone and sky; in others they are just flat areas of emotive sombreness or brilliance.

Chambord (1971) shows the chateau as the heart of light, white-yellow intensity in near darkness. It is like approaching the throne of God. Interesting, then, to see among his photographs — which are all black-and-white — a high-contrast print of its chaos of turrets, cupolas, windows and zigzagging pinnacles. It is an extraordinary image, taken with a telephoto lens and apparently by floodlight, but perhaps using a filter to blacken the sky. The effect is dramatic, stony, Pinteresque.

Some of his most striking watercolours and screenprints suggest nature's sun et lumière: the flash of inspiration that is lightning. Others evoke the sky at its limits. *Ruistoun* shows the church tower in a ghostly, chalky blue and orangey pinks, standing out from the luring dusk and grey stone nave, as if in a visionary moment. Is it an apocalyptic hint or just chance that the clock stands at a minute before 12?

Church towers became a favourite subject. Themselves vertical slashes of colour, they beckon upwards like Jacob's ladder. The *West Walton* tower stands in a shaft of white. Other effects are more extreme still: *Waddesdon* is shown as though burning down; *Hartstoun* (Blue) is a Spielberg fairy palace.



John Piper at home at Fawley Bottom in 1988: can a commercial exhibition hope to reproduce the creative chaos of the artist's studio?

But this exhibition, which packs a pick of Piper, is not all topographical, nor all painting. The intention is to evoke the creative clutter of Fawley Bottom, the Pipers' Oxfordshire home for more than 50 years. A selling show can hardly do this, because the house was full of the half-finished, of *objets trouvés* and the work of others, which would be out of place in Brunton Street. But Myfanwy has lent works including full-size cartoons for stained-glass windows, to show the range of Piper's interests.

There is a scale model of his stage set for Britten's *Death in Venice*

(1974, libretto by Myfanwy), which forms a concertina anthology of the city's canals and channels and dead ends. This led to a series of screenprints. Piper's juxtaposition of different architectural perspectives and elements here is almost cubist. Near by in the gallery stand two obelisks, perhaps 18in high, of which each face is painted with ruined arches. These four-dimensional facets create an odd, prismatic effect: cubism in the round. But furthermore, the obelisks were inspired, we are told, by "Inigo Jones theatre designs": by the work, that is, of the landscape painter and

architect who brought the Palladian style to England from the Veneto, and introduced the proscenium arch and moveable scenery to the English stage. This play between the theatre, painting and architecture squares both the circle and Piper's debt to his predecessor. This is typical of the way that drawing in one medium or genre often meant drawing upon another. The sketches recording church decorations, for instance, are not always distinct from Piper's own new designs, and ideas on paper were often translated into stained glass — again, great vertical

lights — or ceramics or tapestry. The Foliate Heads of the 1970s and 1980s adapt the ancient figure of the Green Man for several media. Roundels or rectangles, they portray mask-like features peeping through, or else composed of branches and tendrils, all overlaid with avant-garde colours. His French friends of the 1930s might have hated the idea of a series of heads called "The Seasons", but it is Piper who now looks the more modern.

John Piper: From his Studio is at the Berkeley Square Gallery, 23a Brunton St, London W1 (071-493 7939). Continues until February 12

JAZZ

Five truly alive

JUST before this Wellins-Stroman Quintet gig was due to start, "Body and Soul", jazz's most celebrated tenor vehicle, came on over the club PA. Bobby Wellins immediately began contributing a subtle, breathy solo over the famous chord sequence which somehow contrived to exhibit, even in this most informal of settings, many of the qualities which make him such a distinctive and special tenor player. While sticking closely to the tune's melody and taking few liberties with the beat, he nevertheless managed to produce an entirely individual commentary on the tune, a sort of wispy obbligato tinged with melancholy.

It set the tone for the evening: producing unexpectedly disciplined music from such informality turned out to be the quintet's great strength. While not an ad hoc grouping, the band — Wellins (tenor), Scott Stroman (trombone), Phil Lee (guitar), Alec Dankworth (bass) and Brian Abrahams (drums) — play together infrequently enough to allow their members to experience what is clearly genuine delighted surprise at each other's playing, but is sufficiently skilled to produce tight, compelling music of

Wellins-Stroman Quintet
Vortex, N16

extremely high quality. All leaders in their own right — Stroman, indeed, runs the influential jazz course at the Guildhall School of Music — they operate together in what might be termed a "modern mainstream" area inhabited by, say, the Jazztet featuring Benny Golson, Art Farmer and Curtis Fuller, the latter one of Stroman's main influences.

It was with a Benny Golson tune, "Five Spot After Dark", that the quintet began their set. Although the format — head, round of solos, brief frontline collective improvisation, head — was conventional enough, all five men produced original and personal solos within it. Wellins in particular finding an unexpected but satisfying route through the tune's changes, and imbuing all he played with an affecting, bruised lyricism. Like Wellins, Stroman is adept at producing the unpredictable but fitting solo comment, and on his own Ellington-inspired "Sweet Talk", a quarter of a four-part suite dedicated to influential big bands, he combined the romanticism of a Lawrence Brown with the idiosyncrasy of a Jimmy Knepper without a hint of contrivance.

Although the frontline players' all shone — Lee, too, turned in a wonderfully inventive but considered performance — this was a group success. Dankworth and Abrahams discreetly propulsive in support yet assertive when needed. The gig was a triumphant vindication of Wellins's famous assertion that jazz is "grown-up music".

CHRIS PARKER

Making a present from the past

Twelve artists are inspired by the British Museum's Egyptian collection. Guy Walters on "Time Machine"

The fragment of a huge bronze head lies on the lawn outside the British Museum. Some Italian children are chasing pigeons around it, while a gaggle of Japanese attempt to take photographs of themselves next to it. A couple of very English-looking drunks sit on a nearby bench, and on the other side of the car park a Big Issue vendor is making a small income.

The head, which is black and ten feet high, is magnificent in its stillness, its blank eyes constantly monitoring the goings-on of the random assembly. Its mouth carries the pucker of a faintly contemptuous smile. The piece, by Igor Mihoraj, is called *Moonlight* and is based on an engraving of a colossal head found near the ruins of Heliopolis in Egypt.

The work is part of the British Museum's "Time Machine: Ancient Egypt and

Contemporary Art" exhibition, which displays contemporary works by 12 artists inspired or influenced by the museum's Egyptian collection. Among the 5,000-year-old sculptures can be found paintings, photographs and installation pieces.

The exhibition is not intended to be a glib juxtaposition of the ancient and modern, but an exploration of dialogue and harmony between them. As James Putnam, curator of "Time Machine", explains: "The artists invited to participate in the exhibition are those who, it was felt, would explore the concept in a more thematic and evocative way." That's putting it mildly.

Marc Quinn, who earned notoriety for *Self*, a cast of his

head in his frozen blood, is now showing *Frog*, which is just as it sounds. Refrigeration is Quinn's game again, and here we have a transparent head containing a frozen *Rana sylvatica*, the North American wood frog which freezes during the winter and thaws in spring. This means that Quinn's frog is actually alive — one step beyond Damien Hirst's oh-so-dead lamb.

Frog is not something that you might find in, say, your local Iceland, but in Ancient Egypt the frog was regarded as a deity associated with birth — hence *Frog's* place among the ancients. Although Quinn describes his sculpture as "an evolutionary bungee jump", it is more of an artistic fast one. Rosetta Stone Bar Code by

David Hiscock goes some way towards fulfilling the exhibition's aims. Hiscock's etched zinc plate shows the hieroglyphs from Rosetta mutated into a modern barcode. Hiscock claims that the barcode symbol has "no direct meaning, unlike the true hieroglyph, which can be a pictogram or a symbol for something. A barcode is merely a symbol that stands for a number."

Perhaps the etcher's thinking is slightly muddled — to a semiotician a bar code is just as valid as a hieroglyph. After all, a number is "something": it does have direct meaning. Nevertheless, the work is effective because it engages ancient and contemporary in conversation, out of which

arises harmony when one appreciates that the ancient Egyptians' written systems of communication seem as complex as ours are now.

However, there is one piece that perfectly fulfils the aims of "Time Machine". It is not the product of today, but a piece of granite from the 12th Dynasty, about 1800 BC. It is a roughly carved sculpture of an "official". When one looks closely at the features, they become very familiar; you can discern a certain thinness of lip, a narrowness of eyes, and a bulge of stomach.

Some things never change. Time Machine runs at the British Museum (071-636 1555) until February 26, 1995



Marc Quinn's *Frog*, the North American *Rana sylvatica*, which freezes in winter and thaws in spring

Slav in the boulevard

Sergei Chepik is far from the first — and presumably far from the last — Russian artist to find a home-from-home in Paris. The first thing to strike one about his recent paintings on show at Roy Miles is how obsessed with Paris they seem to be. The second is how utterly un-French they are.

The Ecole de Paris has always opened its arms wide to the most extravagant variety of foreign talent: it is enough that they want to live and work in Paris. In this Chepik runs true to form. The Paris of his paintings is defi-

John Russell
Taylor looks at
Sergei Chepik's
recent paintings

nately Paris, but beyond that it is clearly the City. A city quite possibly of dreadful night: there is nearly always an element of nightmare in Chepik's work, and even when he breaks out of his habitual blue/grey tonality to peer into strip clubs or prize fights, the hectic reds carry a sulphurous whiff of hellfire.

Though Chepik's vistas of rooftops and gargoyles would make a fit setting for the *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, they are like no illustration of Victor Hugo that any Frenchman might devise. It is the Kremlin bells which are faintly ringing, not those of Notre Dame. And in fact in many of Chepik's large allegorical compositions, the topographical references may be French, but the dramatic personae are unmistakably Russian: clowns from the Russian circus (the clown indeed is a frequent mask for Chepik himself).

strange-winged, chicken-legged creatures from Russian folk tale, gods and devils, saints and fools imbued with the Slavonic soul.

Oddly enough, in this London show there is one artist who frequently springs to mind. In all probability Chepik has never heard of him. But the drawings of ragged-haired boys with huge eyes look as though they might have stepped straight out of Gormenghast, and the image of Mervyn Peake's Ancient Mariner hovers disconcertingly close to the hunched figure which dominates *The Foreign Towns* (*Loneliness*) and to the ghostly rigging in the background.

Chepik is clearly one of the best, completely traditional painters now working. He is a superb technician with an instantly recognisable personal mark. He is one of those artists who create their own world and carry it round with them, living in it like a snail in its shell. He is surely not a political artist, though inevitably politics has shaped his life. The most ambitious painting in the show is entitled *Red Square* (*The Time of Trou-*



Chepik's *Troadero*, 1993: his settings may be French, but his figures are often imbued with the Slavonic soul

bles). Obviously something disturbing is going on, but it is a something which would make more sense to Bosch than to Leon Golub. The lord of misrule is abroad, but then when-in human history has he not been only a breath away?

Chepik's sense of the precariousness of things is universal rather than particular, and so strikes a chord in everyone. Sergei Chepik is at the Roy Miles Gallery, 30 Brunton Street, London W1 (071-495-4147) until December 21.



Armchair treats

DANCE fans can stay at home this Christmas and still get their fill: BBC TV is presenting an ambitious dance season during the holiday period. On Christmas Eve (BBC2), Coppelia dons red high heels as the sexually provocative femme fatale heroine of Maguy Marin's offbeat version of *Coppelia*. Forget the familiar Rhineland village of old; this Lyons Opera Ballet production is set among the anonymous grey tower blocks of a modern city. Another controversial slant on a classic is broadcast on December 26 (BBC2) when the Royal Ballet's new *Sleeping Beauty* — with those enormous wonky sets — comes to the screen. Traditionalists will be catered for the next day when BBC1 shows the biggest treat of all — the dazzling Birmingham Royal Ballet production of *The Nutcracker*.

Precision movements

by
RAYMOND WEIL
GENEVE

WALTHAM Company of the New York JEWELLERY AWARDS 1994

AVAILABLE FROM WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND HARRISON'S GATEWAY
BIRMINGHAM AND SELECTED BRANCHES OF GOLDSMITHS LESLIE
DUNCAN, WILKINSON AND HALL, MAYNARD AND WEBB, FRISCH, JONES
BROOKINGS, DAVENPORT, HARRISON AND OTHER FINE JEWELLERS
FOR YOUR NEAREST RAYMOND WEIL AGENT PLEASE
TELEPHONE 0432 854 822

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 071 481 9994 (Trade)

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

FAX:
071 782 7828

Aim for the top! £22,000 pkg

Enjoy this excellent package and all the benefits of working for a prestigious financial firm but in the heart of W1. This private investment company located in stunning premises require a motivated, proactive secretary with a flair for organisation. Your 2-3 yrs financial experience will stand you in good stead as you work to deadlines, often under pressure with overtime for two young directors. Age 25-35. Skills: 60 wpm typing/W for Windows/80 wpm s/b. Please call Maggie Heap on 071 437 6032.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Are you ready...

...for a really busy role? One of London's most prestigious international companies based in W1 is looking for team secretaries with stacks of energy, initiative and a well developed sense of humour! Microsoft Word for Windows and good Audio typing (60 wpm) are essential. Beautiful offices and a great social life are all guaranteed! Ideal age 20-30 £16,000. Call Emma 071 437 6032.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Wanted: Ambitious/ Dynamic Young PA £18-20,000 plus fantastic bens

The ultimate challenge is awaiting you. One prestigious and successful client is looking for the best - and that is you! This is not an ordinary position and requires someone with tenacity and drive to become a true high flying PA. You will be 100% involved in making up this new division - helping build strong relationships with new clients, arranging and attending national conferences and having all the administration under control! The environment is fast paced and fun, the prospects fantastic! Word for Windows, Excel, 80 wpm typing, shorthand preferable, age 25-32. Call Emma IMMEDIATELY on 071 437 6032.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Secretarial Step Ahead £15-£16,000 + bens

Make a fortune and secure your future by taking an early career move into a prestigious City company. This fun team role will develop the secretarial skills you have gained over the last 2 years. Get fully involved from day one, supporting the team with client liaison, administration, audio and copy typing. And the fun part, I hear you cry. A high basic salary with excellent company benefits, generous bonus and paid overtime. Any 'winners' package, and a spreadsheet would be useful. Please call Sarah or Caroline on 071 377 9919.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Graduate Recruitment Secretary To £16,000 + bens

If you enjoy the idea of personnel, and love being a busy recruitment team is looking for a secretary to provide total back up and admin support - including arranging interviews and occasionally liaising with senior partners. Nervous can fry in this fast paced and sometimes stressful environment, so your calm and mature attitude should smooth down the red hot furnace! Microsoft Word for Windows preferable, 70 wpm typing, age 21-26. This really is a golden opportunity - don't miss it! Call Amanda Pellingham on 071 377 9919.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Executive Secretary £25,000

This well-known merchant bank in W1 is looking for a first-class PA. The ideal candidate will have 10 years plus experience at a very senior level, but with hands-on involvement in all aspects of secretarial work and exceptional administrative and organisational skills. Ideally this experience would have been gained in an investment bank or a diplomatic service with exposure to people from various cultures. The role requires a high degree of intelligence, commitment, integrity, diplomacy with social confidence and poise to carry on public relations aspect of the position. At least A level educated, computer literate with some French and/or Arabic an advantage. Please call Sarah Dempster on 071 434 4512.

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

1995 NEW START £21,000 + MS + Bonus

A demanding and involving role! Well established Investment Management company has an immediate requirement for an experienced, confident PA/Secretary. The ideal candidate will be aged 28-38, have experience of Ampro WP, a spreadsheet package be 'A' Level educated and be used to a deadline driven environment. A varying workload incorporating client liaison and extensive travel arrangements.

Please contact Melinda Marks

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No. 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel No. 071-625 1256 Fax No. 071-625 1262

JONATHAN WREN & CO. LTD.

GLOBAL PA £22,000 + MS + Benefits

This dynamic, young Executive urgently seeks a PA/Secretary to assist him with his day to day activities. He is in charge of Global Foreign Exchange, so his position involves travelling extensively, requiring his PA to plan his itineraries, liaise with international offices and become involved with general administration. The ideal candidate will be aged 35-45, have Word for Windows, Excel and a spreadsheet package and have fluent German. Shorthand essential.

Please contact Melinda Marks

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No. 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel No. 071-625 1256 Fax No. 071-625 1262

JONATHAN WREN & CO. LTD.

Great openings are not only found on your Advent calendar...

Christmas Crackers...

A number of our most prestigious clients are seeking strong, confident secretaries who enjoy a high typing content, in friendly and involving surroundings. These vacancies are ideal for experienced, mature candidates looking for an opportunity to use their initiative and organisational skills. Typing 60wpm. Fantastic benefits.

The Perfect Present!

Why not give yourself a true Christmas gift this year in the shape of a fantastic opportunity within a top management consultancy? Our client, based in W1, is searching for a strong, determined secretary/administrator to work with a divisional team. The role is very challenging and stimulating and would be ideal for a good, confident 2nd jobber, who is happy working in a team-oriented environment. Typing 60wpm.

New Year... New Beginnings...

How about starting the New Year as you mean to go on? Step out into a whole new world which opens when you start your first job! We have a number of 'once in a lifetime' opportunities for hard working, flexible and switched on college leavers who want to work in the heart of the capital. Duties are varied, involving, include client liaison and typing correspondence etc. Typing 55 wpm. A-Level education preferred.

Seasonal Greetings to all our Temps!

As the Christmas decorations go up and the mince pies go down, so we say goodbye to another successful and very enjoyable year. We at Gordon Yates would like to give our heartfelt thanks to all in our temporary team who have struggled through the rain, the strikes and the glorious summer days to make this one of our most prosperous years in ages. Roll on 1995...

...call now for your new start



Gordon Yates recruits on the basis of merit and equal opportunity. Please call 071-493 5767 today.

GORDON YATES

Recruitment Consultants

We're Moving!

Crone Corkill are delighted to announce that from **MONDAY, 19TH DECEMBER 1994** the City Business Divisions (permanent & temporary) will be based at

5 QUEEN STREET, LONDON EC4N 1SP
Tel: 0171-390 7000 Fax: 0171-390 2997

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS



Guy Laroche

AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING

PRUDENTIAL Portfolio Managers

FACILITIES ADMINISTRATOR

City
circa £16,000

Prudential Portfolio Managers is the investment arm of Prudential Corporation, managing funds in excess of £75 billion. Prudential is not only Britain's biggest international investor, it is also one of the largest institutional property owners in the UK, all of which is managed by Prudential Portfolio Managers Property Division.

An excellent opportunity has arisen for a professional secretary/administrator. Your responsibilities will be diverse; from administration of significant elements of property management accounting to running the office at Minster Court - a prestigious city investment property. In addition you will be expected to provide administrative support for a team of 3.

A pre-requisite will be a minimum of 50wpm, computer literacy and accounting experience.

We can accommodate late appointments for this position. Contact Jane McGinley on 071 437 9030 or fax your CV on 071 287 8790.

19-23 Oxford Street, London W1R 2AT.

CHALLONER JAMES

PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT SERVICES

CALLING ALL BANKING GIRLS

WHY PUT UP WITH SECOND BEST!
£16,000 - £20,000

How was your bonus? Looking forward to going back to work after the Christmas break? No! Well, why not see what is on offer at some of the leading banks in the City and West End. If you have minimum 60 wpm typing, preferably have good shorthand, working knowledge of Word for Windows and Excel and an interest in banking - call us now on ...

071-734 8484

**PAN EUROPEAN
RECRUITMENT**

EXPERIENCED PROJECT SECRETARY

urgently sought by London office of US-based architectural/interior design firm located in the City. Must be fully computer literate with MS Word for Windows and Excel. Ideally have 20+ yrs exp. in a similar environment. French an advantage. Attractive package. Please send current CV with contact address & phone number to: Box No 2004 c/o Times Newspapers PO Box 3553, 1 Virginia St., London E1 9SA

ONE STEP AHEAD c£19k + bank pkg

Ability to think ahead and take charge! Join this international bank where you will organise and develop the admin side of the bank. Lots of scope to develop with Word for Windows/Excel/100% with Word for Windows/Excel. Powerpoint, please call Sophie Kelsick at Tate Appointments on 071-488 8424

AVANT GARDEN OFFICE MANAGER/PA

to run glamorous garden furniture and accessories company.

Personable and level headed, with good communications skills, able to control small busy team. Experience of import/export and bookkeeping desirable. European languages useful but not essential.

Please write with CV to Joan Clifton, Avant Garden, 77 Leadenway Road, London W11 2AG Phone 071 229 4468. Fax 071 229 4410

PARTNERS' PA

£17-20K

Exciting last day firm requires several capable, professional PAs to join them at any of our offices. Advanced WPS & 60 wpm essential. Shorthand an advantage.

Call 071 377 6777 Middleton Jeffers

PA/SECRETARY

c£20,000 plus benefits

Int. Loss Adjusters, EC3, require a bright, 30+ PA to assist the Overseas Director at Group Level. To provide full PA support and implement £50,000. Applicants with excellent Audio, WP 6.1, Lotus 123 and Graphics skills, and exp of ISO9000 please apply. Prof. attitude, org. skills and initiative essential as Director is frequently overseas.

Please forward your cv to Box No 2616, c/o The Times, PO Box 3553, Virginia St, London E1 9SA.

SECRETARY

Centre for Development Studies

Salary £13/K - £15/K p.a. inc.

Bright, efficient and well organised person sought to provide secretarial and administrative support for this busy and growing Centre of four academic staff and over 60 students.

A high standard of literacy, numeracy and keyboard skills together with the ability to proof-read are essential. Of equal importance is the ability to deal pleasantly and effectively with students.

Previous office experience, preferably in Higher Education, using Apple Mac computers, is desirable.

Application forms and job descriptions may be obtained from the Personnel Office, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG (tel: 071 323 6188 between 10.30am and 2.00pm). No CVs or agencies.

Closing date: Tuesday 3 January 1995. SOAS is an equal opportunities employer.

SECRETARY/PA To Company Directors

We have a vacancy for a full time well educated Secretary/PA to handle a diverse workload with diplomacy & tact.

Working for the Chief Executive you will have close dealings with national and international clients, which demands a good telephone manner and the ability to act appropriately when handling critical situations.

Familiarity with medical terminology and experience with Word for Windows & spreadsheet packages are essential.

Apply in writing with job CV to: Tim Cooper, Director of Operations, Managed Health Systems Limited, 14 Buckingham Street, The Strand, London WC2N 6DF

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY

Salary From £17,000 pa

We are looking for a self-motivated person to take over the day-to-day running of an established business centre in Mayfair. The successful candidate will need to be a team player with good secretarial skills but will also relish the opportunity to use their initiative, managing a small team with much responsibility in a service related environment where customer satisfaction is of paramount importance.

Please apply with CV to: John Badgerman, Lambert Smith Hampton, Regent Arcade House, 19/25 Argyl Street, London W1V 1AA Tel: 071 494 4000

SECRETARY

required for extremely busy role providing support to Sales Director and salesperson. Must be well-organised, articulate, flexible and independent. Age 25. Salary £16,000 + Bens.

Apply in writing to: Olive Casanova, Kinsarvan (Confidentiality) Company Ltd, 49 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 4ER.

SECRETARY FOR BOND STREET ARCHITECTS W1

Secretary/Receptionist required, having good all-round ability to work in busy office. Able to handle telephone enquiries with a pleasant and efficient telephone manner essential. Salary neg. Apply in writing to: La Roche Maw, 87/81 New Bond St, London W1V 6LA.

THE ROYAL FINE ART COMMISSION

Personal Secretary

The Royal Fine Art Commission, an independent government-funded organisation, wishes to appoint a Personal Secretary to its Secretary. The appointee will also provide secretarial support for the Deputy Secretary and assist with other tasks as required for the Commission.

Applicants should be experienced, computer literate secretaries, familiar with Wordperfect 5.1, with good typing, and shorthand/audio skills.

Salary range from £12,937 to £15,880. Starting salary will depend on experience and progress through the range is related to performance. 22 days holiday, Pension scheme.

Apply for application form to: The Secretary, Royal Fine Art Commission, 7 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4JU.

Telephone: 071 839 6537 Closing date for applications: 13th January 1995.

MARY HOLLAND RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Sales & Marketing Sec/Asst

c£18K

Personality and organising ability very important and you should be well-versed in Word and Excel as well as have excellent interpersonal communication skills.

Tel 071 734 4320/4324 Fax: 071 734 4322 2-8 Henry's Avenue, Richmond Street, London EC2V 8ET

MARY HOLLAND RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Investment Management PA/Asst

£20K + Benefits

To act as a 'right arm' to an Executive specialising in Asset Management. Must be a proactive, confident, self-starter, with excellent interpersonal communication skills.

Tel 071 734 4320/4324 Fax: 071 734 4322 2-8 Henry's Avenue, Richmond Street, London EC2V 8ET

ORGANISED PA £20,000

One of the most successful City firms of its kind seeks a Secretary/PA to support a senior executive. You will arrange travel/accommodation for UK and overseas assignments, together with undertaking administrative and management information projects. 60 wpm Typing and previous secretarial experience required. Age 25+. Please telephone 071 628 9528.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

START THE NEW YEAR IN STYLE CIRCA £20K

An elegantly refurbished Georgian building with a dynamic international IT Human Resources business has a requirement for 1 or 2 PAs to work at the highest level to ensure the smooth running of the operation for the Chief Executive and his directors. Located in the heart of cosmopolitan Brighton with activities around the globe three opportunities represent positions of significant responsibility within this high profile organisation. If you would appreciate a career where rewards are still related then forward your application with accompanying CV in the first instance to Graham Footings, Executive Group Plc, Elmfield House, 56 Old Steine, Brighton BN1 1NE. Fax: 0273 778464 Tel: 0273 202316

Executive Secretary/PA WATKINSON GALLERIES

Must have excellent s/b, 60wpm, 24h skills, knowledge of Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Access, etc. Apply in writing to: Janet Wain, Watkinson Galleries, 11 Oak Street, London W1V 6LA. Tel 071 734 4148

All Best member agencies looking for addresses

Box No 2004 c/o Times Newspapers PO Box 3553, 1 Virginia St, London E1 9SA

هكذا من الأصل

Separate assessments in notice

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Le Riffi Ltd
Before Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Millett and Sir Ralph Gibson
[Reasons December 7]

Where a taxpayer was assessed for value-added tax covering a number of prescribed accounting periods, it was open to the VAT tribunal to find as a fact that there was a separate assessment for each period and not a global assessment for the whole period.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment giving reasons for allowing an appeal from a VAT tribunal decision on November 14, 1994, in *Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Le Riffi Ltd* (The Times August 2, 1993) of an appeal against a decision of the VAT tribunal in favour of the taxpayer, Le Riffi Ltd.

Mr Nigel Fleming, QC and Mr Robert Jay for the commissioners; Mr Edward Cohen for the taxpayer.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said that the taxpayer carried on the business of a members club and was registered for VAT. An officer of Customs and Excise visited the taxpayer's premises on two occasions in 1989 and inspected the taxpayer's records and accounts.

From the information obtained it appeared to the commissioners that the returns made by the taxpayer for the purposes of VAT

were incorrect in that an examination of the records cast doubts on the accuracy of the declared gross takings. Accordingly on August 8, 1989 the commissioners served on the taxpayer a notice in Form VAT 191.

The notice ran to three pages and contained 24 lines. Each line, save the last, represented a three-month period. The first period started on May 1, 1983, the last (two-month) period ended on March 31, 1989.

The total amounts shown on the three pages were respectively £50,003.10, £53,404.98 and £18,895.60, amounting to £122,303.68 in all, although that overall total did not appear on any part of the notice.

Consequent upon negotiations between the commissioners and the taxpayer that was reduced to £15,840.22, which was the amount in issue when the taxpayer's appeal came before the tribunal.

At the commencement of the hearing before the tribunal counsel for the taxpayer took the preliminary point that the whole assessment contained in the notice was null and void because it was made more than six years after the end of the first prescribed accounting period included in a global assessment of £122,303.68.

That preliminary point was accepted by the tribunal and the judge and it was the issue on the appeal. It depended on the answer to the question: was the notice a

single global assessment? The power of the commissioners to assess VAT due was, at the relevant date, contained in paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 7 to the Value Added Tax Act 1983.

Paragraph 4(3) of Schedule 7 provided: "Where a person is assessed under [sub-paragraph] (1) ... in respect of the same prescribed accounting period the assessments may be combined and notified to him as one assessment." "Prescribed accounting period" was defined by section 48(1) of the 1983 Act by reference to section 14(1) of the Act which provided: "A taxable person shall, in respect of supplies made by him, be liable to pay tax by reference to such periods (in this Act referred to as prescribed accounting periods), at such time and in such manner as may be determined ..."

Section 22 of the Finance Act 1985 provided: "(1) ... an assessment ... shall not be made more than six years after the end of the prescribed accounting period ..."

It was permissible for the commissioners to make a single or "global" assessment covering more than one accounting period. In practice that might be necessary when it was impossible or impracticable for the commissioners to identify the specific accounting period or periods for which the tax claimed was due.

In such a case the six-year time limit prescribed by section 22(1) of the 1985 Act ran from the end of the first prescribed accounting period included in that assessment.

The power of the commissioners to make a global assessment was, however, not confined to such cases. So it was a question of fact in any case whether there had been one global assessment or a number of assessments notified together.

It was clear that Form VAT 191 was intended to be used for either a single assessment or a number of assessments. His Lordship was left in no doubt that the notice embraced 24 assessments for the 24 accounting periods listed in the notice.

The tribunal and the judge reached the conclusion that the notice contained a single global assessment because they considered that they were bound by the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Don Pasquale v Customs and Excise Commissioners* (The Times June 14, 1990; [1990] STC 556). That case was on its facts indistinguishable from the present.

Their Lordships were not bound by the doctrine of precedent to follow the *Don Pasquale* decision. That doctrine required them only to follow a decision of the Court of Appeal, or for that matter, the House of Lords, if the decision raised a question of principle: see *Ashtree Investments v Elmer Ltd* ([1989] QB 488, 494) and *Hack v London Provident Building Society* ([1983] 23 Ch D 103, 111).

Giving the decision in *Don Pasquale* the full persuasive effect to which it was entitled, their Lordships remained unpersuaded that the notice could be interpreted as constituting a single global assessment.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT, agreeing, said there was a considerable body of authority for the proposition that, unless it laid down a general principle of construction, a previous decision on the meaning of an expression in a document was not binding on the court when construing a different document in a later case even if the language of the two documents was identical.

The rule was different where the instrument to be construed was a statute or regulation or a prescribed form. In such cases the earlier decision was authority for the meaning of the instrument and was binding on the court which was called on to construe the same instrument in a later case.

The same was probably true of standard forms of contract or standard contractual terms. Form VAT 191 was none of those things.

Sir Ralph Gibson delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Tario Lyons.

Regina v Wells
Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Kay and Mr Justice Mitchell
[Judgment December 1]

Once an indictment was in existence, the power to amend it was contained in the Indictments Act 1915 and rules made thereunder.

The power to amend was not affected by the restriction on preferring indictments contained in section 2(2) of the Administration of Justice Act 1933, which was concerned only with the question of whether the indictment was preferred in the bill of indictment when it was preferred.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held, in a reserved judgment, dismissing an appeal by Derek Wells against a decision of Mr Recorder Kershida on July 19, 1993, at Isleworth Crown Court to give leave for an indictment against him to be amended by adding five counts of handling stolen goods.

Section 2 of the 1933 Act provided: "(2) Subject as hereinafter provided, no bill of indictment charging any person with an indictable offence shall be preferred unless either - (a) the person charged has been committed for trial for the offence or

(b) the bill is preferred by the direction or with the consent of a judge of the High Court ..."

Provided that - (i) where the person charged has been committed for trial, the bill of indictment against him may include, either in substitution for, or in addition to, counts charging the offence for which he was committed, any counts founded on fact or evidence disclosed in any examination or deposition ... being counts which may lawfully be joined in the same indictment."

Mr Thomas Kay, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellants; Mr Anthony Heaton Armstrong for the Crown; Mr JUSTICE KAY, giving the judgment of the court, said that, following previous complications, the Crown applied for leave to prefer a voluntary bill of indictment against the appellant. The bill was endorsed by a High Court judge and became an indictment.

Shortly before the hearing counsel for the Crown learnt of its contents, which were not in accordance with the advice he had given to the appellant. He applied for leave to amend the indictment by adding five counts of handling stolen goods.

Counsel for the appellant indicated that he would be objecting to the bill of indictment on the

ground that it charged the appellant with a number of identifiable handling offences in one rolled up count contrary to the decision of the Court of Appeal in *R v Snyggire* (1980) 72 Cr App Rep 8 and that he would oppose any application to amend it.

The recorder, after lengthy argument, gave leave for the indictment to be amended by adding five counts of handling stolen goods. The appellant pleaded guilty to the amended indictment but not guilty to the count as originally included in the new indictment.

The sole ground of appeal was that the recorder had no power to grant leave for the new indictment to be amended. The argument advanced for the appellant was that in exercising the power to order amendment of an indictment pursuant to section 5 of the 1915 Act the court was limited by the need to observe the provisions of section 2(1) of the 1933 Act.

It was not possible, it was suggested, to add additional counts unless the addition of those counts came within the provisions of that section. In the case of an indictment based upon a committed count, the counts might be disclosed in the depositions, but, it was contended, since there was no corresponding provision for a bill of indictment preferred

with the consent of a High Court judge, no count could be added.

In their Lordships' judgment, that was based on a false premise. Section 2(1) of the 1933 Act was not in any way concerned with any question of amendment of an indictment, it was concerned only with the question of what offences could be included in the bill of indictment when it was preferred. If any of the alternative counts listed in that section had been followed, no objection could be taken to the inclusion of those offences in the indictment. Since the section imposed no limitation, by reference to the offences included in the indictment, on the power of a High Court judge to consent to preferment, it was unnecessary for the section to contain any provision of the kind made for a bill of indictment consequent upon committal proceedings.

The question of amendment of an indictment only arose at a later stage once the bill of indictment had been signed and became an indictment. The power to amend was the power pursuant to section 5 of the 1915 Act to amend the indictment in the same way whatever the course taken by which the indictment came into existence.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, London.

Assessing risk of prejudice to litigation

Regina v Chairman of the Regulatory Board of Lloyd's
Before Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny
[Judgment November 25]

Where a loss review was concurrent with litigation, the court should ascertain on a balance of probability whether there was a sufficient risk of prejudice to a party to the litigation to justify the exercise of discretion to order the loss review to be stayed until the end of the trial at first instance.

However, as the purpose of a loss review was not disciplinary but was to track down reasons for losses and where the purpose of litigation was to establish negligence or breach of statutory duty and recover damages, there was no total overlap of issues to merit the sparing exercise of the court's power to intervene.

Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny so stated in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application for judicial review by Roderick Macmillan and Stuart Thompson of a decision of the chairman of the regulatory board of Lloyd's on behalf of the Council of Lloyd's to suspend the loss review of syndicate 80 of which Mr Macmillan was the

former principal underwriter and syndicate 843 of which Mr Thompson was a former underwriter.

Mr Ian Hunter, QC and Mr David Joseph for the applicants; Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr Steven Kovacs for Lloyd's.

MR JUSTICE MACPHERSON said that in each case a balancing exercise had to be performed. In some cases it might be in order for the loss review to continue, in others where there was prejudice it should not.

His Lordship was unable to give more general help other than to point to the relevant principles. The principles to be applied came from a series of Court of Appeal

judgments and not in the loss review.

The advanced stage of the loss review and the evidence suggested that there was considerable public interest to conclude it because the non-litigating names and Lloyd's were ended to see it ended.

In the present case there were as yet no points of claim, no detailed pleadings. The loss review would surely end long before litigation

was prepared for court and probably before any express allegations had been put against the defendants.

Where the clash of proceedings was between litigation and disciplinary proceedings the fact that the conclusions did not match might lead to unfairness. But that was not in the present situation.

Solicitors: Holman Fenwick & Willan; Mr Richard Prior.

Libel auction ban

Kiam v Neil and Another

The defendant in a libel action could not put before the jury specific figures of money offered to the plaintiff in open pre-trial correspondence to mitigate the damages the jury might award.

The defendant could not require the plaintiff to make a statement in open court and Order 32, rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court gave the defendant no opportunity to make such a statement before the action reached settlement.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Morritt) so held on October 19 dismissing an application by Mr Andrew Kiam and Times Newspapers Ltd for leave to appeal against a ruling of

Mr Justice Hidden on October 17 that a specific figure offered by way of damages in open correspondence to Victor Kiam could not be given to the jury hearing his action for libel against the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said that the defendants could not be permitted to disclose the amount of their offer to the jury. The defendant could also make an offer and if it was refused reveal the amount while avoiding submissions on the merits of the sum offered.

That would circumvent all the rules of practice which prohibited counsel from canvassing specific figures to the jury in order to avoid an "auction".

No damages for property owner

Regina v Lambeth London Borough Council, Ex parte Sarkbrook Ltd
Before Mr Justice Jowitt
[Judgment December 1]

A property owner could not recover damages for losses incurred as a result of a housing authority's failure to serve a notice to quit pursuant to section 270 of the Housing Act 1985 on the sitting tenant of a property which was subject to a demolition order.

Mr Justice Jowitt so held in the Queen's Bench Division, granting the applicants, Sarkbrook Ltd, a declaration that Lambeth London Borough Council had failed to comply with its duty to serve a notice pursuant to section 270 of the 1985 Act on a tenant in a property belonging to the applicants which was subject to a demolition order.

The applicants' claim for damages was refused. Section 270 of the 1985 Act provides: "(1) Where a demolition order has been made, the local housing authority shall serve on the occupier of any building, ... to which the order relates a notice

(c) requiring him to quit the building ..."

Mr David Daly for the applicants; Mr Michael Maguire for the council.

MR JUSTICE JOWITT said that the applicants had bought a house, which was subject to a demolition order, intending to demolish it and build a block of flats.

The service of a section 270 notice by the housing authority would have overridden any right of security that the sitting tenant might have had and would have enabled the applicants to obtain possession. However, the housing authority had failed to serve the notice and then had served a notice which was defective.

The claim was disputed by the authority who said that a breach of section 270 carried with it no right as far as the applicants were concerned to damages.

His Lordship noted that an authority could not, of its own volition, withdraw a demolition order once it had become operative.

However, by virtue of section 274(1)(b), the authority could hold its hand if anyone in possession of the property proposed to do so and the authority agreed. Once the work had been carried out properly the authority had to revoke the order.

Therefore, it seemed that the coming into effect of a demolition order did not give the landlord an unqualified right to possession or to expect to get possession of a property.

Nothing in the 1985 Act had led his Lordship to conclude that section 270 conferred on a landlord any right to damages if a housing authority was in breach of its duty under that section. In his Lordship's judgment, the purpose of section 270 was solely to facilitate the demolition of houses, which was unfit for human habitation.

Solicitors: Parker Arenberg Dawson & Cobb, Cardiff; Mr David Talbot, Britain.

LA CREME DE LA CREME

ADMIN SECRETARY WP 5.1

BASED IN W1 THIS BUSY COMPANY ARE LOOKING FOR A NUMERATE ALL-ROUNDER TO LOOK AFTER THEIR GENERAL MANAGER AND SALES TEAM.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CALL THERESE/JOHN ON 071 713 5006/8

ADMINISTRATOR/OFFICE MANAGER

Westminster Enterprise Agency Ltd. needs an experienced Administrator to assist in support and quality systems and procedures. You will display excellent computer skills and a high level of commitment to tasks with particular attention to detail. Your organizational skills will help the agency with its work of meeting small business and with its participation in the proposed Business Link for Central London.

Salary £10,000 - £11,000 according to experience. Closing Date: 23/12/94

Please send CV and letter or telephone for further details: Ruth May, Westminster Enterprise Agency, 69/71 Princes Street, London W2 1NS. Tel: (071) 706 4266

COURSES

ST. JAMES'S SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT. Sales Executive required to promote courses offered by prestigious Secretarial College in Kensington.

Sound sales experience, excellent communication and presentation skills a prerequisite. Telephone: 071 737 3852.

WATFORD GARDENS LONDON SW5 0JN

COMPUTER TRAINING

Phone now for a FREE brochure pack!

£50 per day

With two 1 & 2 day courses on all popular Macintosh and PC packages including:

• WordPerfect

• QuarkXPress

• Word for Windows

• Excel and Lotus 123

Meriton Training 081 944 1492

LETTINGS & SALES NEGOTIATORS

LETTINGS Negotiator for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

TRAINER Negotiator, Finance, for the well established Chelsea estate agents. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

FRENCH Just left college and looking to start your career in the City. You will be working for a leading financial institution. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Tel: 071 893 3800.

LA CREME DE LA CREME

ADMIN SECRETARY WP 5.1

BASED IN W1 THIS BUSY COMPANY ARE LOOKING FOR A NUMERATE ALL-ROUNDER TO LOOK AFTER THEIR GENERAL MANAGER AND SALES TEAM.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CALL THERESE/JOHN ON 071 713 5006/8

ADMINISTRATOR/OFFICE MANAGER

Westminster Enterprise Agency Ltd. needs an experienced Administrator to assist in support and quality systems and procedures. You will display excellent computer skills and a high level of commitment to tasks with particular attention to detail. Your organizational skills will help the agency with its work of meeting small business and with its participation in the proposed Business Link for Central London.

Salary £10,000 - £11,000 according to experience. Closing Date: 23/12/94

Please send CV and letter or telephone for further details: Ruth May, Westminster Enterprise Agency, 69/71 Princes Street, London W2 1NS. Tel: (071) 706 4266

COURSES

ST. JAMES'S SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT. Sales Executive required to promote courses offered by prestigious Secretarial College in Kensington.

Sound sales experience, excellent communication and presentation skills a prerequisite. Telephone: 071 737 3852.

WATFORD GARDENS LONDON SW5 0JN

COMPUTER TRAINING

Phone now for a FREE brochure pack!

£50 per day

With two 1 & 2 day courses on all popular Macintosh and PC packages including:

• WordPerfect

• QuarkXPress

• Word for Windows

• Excel and Lotus 123

Meriton Training 081 944 1492

LA CREME DE LA CREME

ADMIN SECRETARY WP 5.1

BASED IN W1 THIS BUSY COMPANY ARE LOOKING FOR A NUMERATE ALL-ROUNDER TO LOOK AFTER THEIR GENERAL MANAGER AND SALES TEAM.

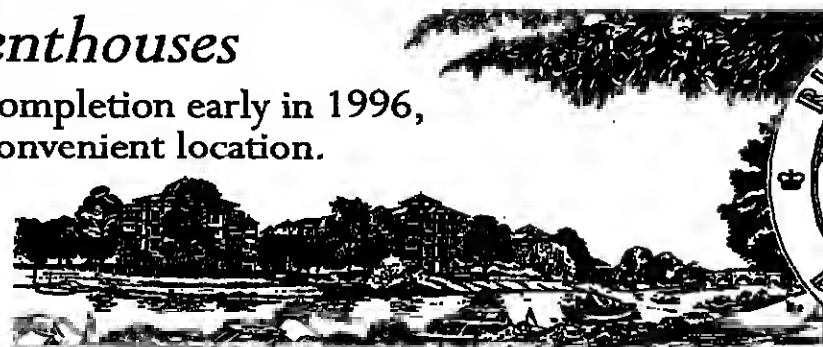
A black and white photograph of a traditional thatched-roof cottage. The house features a steeply pitched roof covered in thick thatch, with a single brick chimney rising from the ridge. The walls are made of brick or stone, with dark timber framing visible on the upper floor. Several windows are visible, some with white frames and others appearing as dark openings. A small white door is centrally located on the ground floor. The house is set against a backdrop of bare, leafless trees, suggesting a winter or late autumn setting. The overall image has a high-contrast, grainy quality.

Christmas card appeal: the Thatch Cottage, Chawton, Hampshire (John D Wood, £285,000) and right The Grange at Milford, Surrey (Curchods, £355,000)

FAX:
071 782 7826

**TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 071 481 1986**

- Underground car parking
- 24 hour security and resident porter
- Spacious units and excellent specification
- Show apartments open for viewing



Selling Agents:
Tel: 0171 589 1333

[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

Hendry attacks television trivialisation

FROM PHIL YATES IN ANTWERP

STEPHEN HENDRY reached the quarter-finals of the European Open here in Belgium yesterday and then used his post-match press conference to criticise the BBC for the minimal coverage of snooker in the *Sports Review* of the Year programme on Sunday.

Hendry, who continued the defence of his title with a 5-3 victory over Tony Drago, of Malta, flew back to London on Sunday, after winning his first-round match, to honour an invitation to the annual awards show.

However, Hendry returned to Belgium appalled by snooker being shunted into a montage of minority sports which included model flying, synchronised swimming, archery and American pool.

"I was disappointed but I wasn't surprised," Hendry, whose dramatic 18-17 victory over Jimmy White in the final of this year's championship audience of 13.4 million, said.

"After the final Jimmy and I gave the BBC, with all of those millions watching, they could have at least given the game just a few minutes' coverage."

Hendry, who on the advice of Ian Doyle, his manager, boycotted the event three years ago, said.

Doyle was incensed by the treatment of snooker. "It was outrageous," Doyle said. "Do these people take notice of what their viewers enjoy. Stephen will not be attending the programme in the future unless things change. The whole thing really frustrates me."

Hendry was not at his most fluent against Drago, a highest break of only 64 bearing testimony to that, but he battled hard and completed victory with a 49 clearance to black after Drago, 57-14 ahead, had gone in off a safety shot with three reds remaining in the eighth frame.

Hendry next meets Darren Morgan or Willie Thorne. Ronnie O'Sullivan, beaten 9-5 by Hendry in the final here last year, also progressed, with a 5-3 win over Alan McManus after trailing 3-2. At that point, McManus appeared the more solid of the two, but the winner of the United Kingdom and British Open last season then struck the kind of purple patch that enabled him to recover from the loss of the first two frames to beat McManus 5-2 in the first round of the Regal Masters three months ago.

Breaks of 111 and 66 pushed O'Sullivan into a 4-3 lead, and he sealed McManus's fate by nervously clearing green to black in the following frame.

Ken Doherty, fast developing into one of the circuit's most consistent performers, advanced by beating Dean Reynolds 5-2. The highlight of Doherty's display was the compilation of a 105 break — his fourteenth century of the season.

However, it was another miserable afternoon for James Wattana, of Thailand. Wattana, who has begun well below his peak, lost 5-3 to Nigel Bond despite a run of 121, the highest break of the event's final phase so far, in the second frame.

It was a much-needed victory for Bond, an Englishman whose place in the top 16 next season appeared to be in jeopardy as a result of his failure to negotiate the opening round in both the Skoda Grand Prix and the United Kingdom championship.

Terry Griffiths, the 1979 world champion, was last night attempting to defeat Steve Davis, a winner of the world title six times between 1981 and 1989, for only the sixth time in 36 tournament meetings.

RESULTS: Second round: K. Doherty (W) 5-2 D Reynolds (E); S. Hendry (S) 5-3 A Drago (M); R. O'Sullivan (E) 5-2 A McManus (S); N. Bond (E) 5-3 J Wattana (Th) 5-3.

Arthurton sweeps Kapoor to the boundary during the West Indies dash for runs on the penultimate day of the final Test. Photograph: Sunil Malhotra

However, Hendry returned to Belgium appalled by snooker being shunted into a montage of minority sports which included model flying, synchronised swimming, archery and American pool.

Schumacher tests engine with Ligier

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER, the Formula One motor racing world drivers' champion, will test drive for Benetton's sister team and rivals, Ligier, at Estoril on Wednesday. He will use the test at the Portuguese track as an opportunity to evaluate for the first time the Renault V10 engine, which will be powering his Benetton car in 1995.

Flavio Briatore, the Benetton managing director, who also owns Ligier, said: "The idea came to me as a unique mutually-beneficial exercise for both teams and sponsors alike. It gives Michael an opportunity to experience the power and handling characteristics of the Renault engine and Ligier a chance to receive advice from the current world champion in developing their 1995 car."

Miami reach play-offs

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Dan Marino completed two touch-down passes and ran for another score as the Miami Dolphins beat the Kansas City Chiefs 45-28 and clinched a National Football League play-off place. The Dolphins, the fifth team to qualify for the tournament that leads to the Super Bowl, can win the American Football Conference East division with one more victory.

Stormy waters

YACHTING: Another gale in the Southern Ocean has pushed Christophe Auguin, of France, and David Adams, of Australia, within 2,000 miles of Sydney in the BOC Challenge solo round the world race, but caused problems for their rivals. Giovanni Soldini, of Italy, reported: "It's still blowing like stink — about 50 knots. No wind instruments, snow instead of rain. Great place for the mother-in-law."

Champion's farewell

EQUESTRIANISM: Everest Milton, the most successful horse in the history of show jumping, with career winnings of more than £1.25 million, is to be officially retired at the Olympia championships which start tomorrow. The 17-year-old grey gelding, owned by Tom and Doreen Bradley, will not be competing, but will make farewell appearances with John Whitaker, his rider, at each performance.

Oliver makes her mark

BOWLS: Lisa Oliver, the Welsh junior women's outdoor singles champion, from Llanelli, became the youngest woman to be selected to play for Wales in the home international series yesterday. Oliver, who was 17 in July, will represent Wales next March and is expected play lead for her mother, Stella, who will be making her sixteenth successive appearance for her country.

Monarchs take pick

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Seven Britons chosen from hundreds of finalists will join London Monarchs when they kick off against Frankfurt Galaxy in the World League of American Football on April 8. Gerry Anderson, Rowell Blennman, Stephen Hutchinson and Allan Tait are veterans of London Olympians; the others are Lewis Capes, Robert Flickinger and Victor Eboedike.



Lara enables Walsh to gamble

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

WEST Indies cricketers threw caution to the winds in Chandigarh yesterday in an attempt to win the final Test with India and so square the series at 1-1.

Courtney Walsh made a challenging declaration at 301 for three, and India, needing 358 to win, stuttered to 37 for one by the close. Navjot Sidhu was dismissed cheaply and Manoj Prabhakar, his fellow opener and a century-maker in the first innings, ended the day in hospital.

Kenny Benjamin made the breakthrough. Walsh had hoped for when he trapped Sidhu leg-before for 11 with the score at 17, minutes after Prabhakar had been led from the field with blood pouring from his nose after being struck by a ball from Walsh. He later had stitches inserted in the wound and may take no further part in the match.

Javagal Srinath and Venkatapathy Raju, the Indian last-wicket pair who had put on 56 runs on Monday, took their partnership to 64 before Raju was caught behind off Benjamin. Thanks to their efforts, the West Indies lead was restricted to 56 and valuable time used up.

SCOREBOARD	
WEST INDIES: First Innings 443 U C Adams 174 not out, A C Cummins 55; A Kumble 4-60.	
Second Innings	
P V Simmons not out 25	61
C Lara c Morgan b Raju 20	51
C L Hooper b Raju 20	20
J C Adams not out 78	78
K L T Arthurton not out 70	70
Extras (b 10, lb 4, nb 3) 17	17
Total (3 wickets) 301	301
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-85, 2-135, 3-156, 4-228, 5-282, 6-365, 7-365, 8-370, 9-323.	
BOWLING: Walsh 34-48-2, Benjamin 26-3-5-105-3, Cummins 22-4-20-3, Cummins 16-2-45-2, Hooper 17-1-50-0, Adams 5-1-0-0.	
Second Innings	
M Prabhakar not out 0	0
N S Sidhu b Benjamin 11	11
S V Manjrekar not out 14	14
Extras (b 4, lb 2) 6	6
Total (1 wicket) 27	27
FALL OF WICKET: 1-17.	
BOWLING: Walsh 6-4-10-0, Benjamin 7-2-23-1.	
Extras: S Dunn (New Zealand) and S Venkatapathy Raju (India).	

Walsh showed his hand immediately by opening with Brian Lara in place of Stuart Williams, and the left-hander responded by playing a sparkling innings of 91 from 104 balls — his highest Test score since his record 375 against England last winter. He put

on 85 for the first wicket with Phil Simmons, 41 coming from the first four overs.

Nothing looked more certain that he would complete a century, and even when he edged a catch behind, Srinivas Venkatapathy Raju, the Indian umpire, made no move to give him out. But Lara began walking towards the pavilion without looking at the official and Venkatapathy Raju eventually raised a finger.

Jimmy Adams, who scored an unbeaten 174 in the first innings, and Keith Arthurton kept the runs flowing. They put on 145 for the fourth wicket to pave the way for a declaration 55 minutes into the final session. Adams, who finished with 78, scored mainly in ones and twos and struck only two boundaries, but nevertheless got his runs from 84 balls.

Arthurton's innings of 70 included sixes off Raju and Aashish Kapoor, the off spinner. He also hit four fours while facing 87 deliveries.

Botham and Border in line for next test

IAN BOTHAM, who has recently hinted that he might have a role to play in the running of an international cricket team, may yet get his wish (Simon Wilde writes). The former England all-rounder is on a shortlist of two to become Sri Lanka's next manager, although it is likely that the other candidate, Allan Border, will win the appointment.

Duleep Mendis, the chairman of the Sri Lanka selectors, has spoken to both men and the response of the former

Australian captain was apparently the more enthusiastic. Border retired from Test cricket earlier this year, but continues to play for Queensland. Since retiring from first-class cricket last year, Botham, 39, has confined his links with the game to a lecture tour, on which he has criticised the England administrators.

Elmo Rodrigo Palle, the sports editor of the Ceylon Daily News, said yesterday: "Allan Border has given some encouraging news. He has said that he is available

once he finishes the season with Queensland. Unless he's asked to play county cricket, I think he'll come."

"If the choice is between the two, they will probably go for Border because Botham is not a good example." Border is expected to be in further contact with the Sri Lanka board next week.

Sri Lanka have failed to win any of their last 16 Test matches, and the World Cup, which they will jointly host, is little more than a year away.

WORD-WARE

Answers from page 44

- FASCINATOR**
(a) A head shawl worn by women, either crocheted or made of a soft material.
(b) A head shawl worn by women, either crocheted or made of a soft material. "Ritzy stepped out in a pink cloak trimmed with swansdown and a candy-striped fascinator which caught snowflakes that fell from the New York sky."
- GELADA**
(a) An Ethiopian baboon characterised by a heavy mane in the adult male, and by a tufted tail.
(b) R. Lydekker, *Royal Nat. Hist.* "The spect of the gelada hardly suggests a large black poodle dog, with an unusually abundant mane."
- RED-TOP**
(a) One of several pasture grasses.
(b) The whole yard, where it was shaded from the afternoon sun, was covered with a tall waving crop of red-top and in some places it was up to six feet high."
- SACKIE**
(a) Any of several small parrots found in northern South America, esp. *Pionites melanocephala*, which has black, blue, and green plumage.
(b) Sackie kept up a gay twittering throughout the night."
- SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**
1. f4. Rxd5, then 1... gxf6 causes confusion; but 1. Qg3! g6; 2. Rxd5 wins a piece.

MIDWEEK RENDEZVOUS

MIDWEEK RENDEZVOUS

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:

BOX NO.

c/o THE TIMES

P.O. BOX 353

VIRGINIA STREET

LONDON E1 9GA

LADIES

DEVASTATING: Dated, blond, brown eyes, 5'6", 120 lbs, 30, single, looking for a serious relationship. Reply to Box No. 2017.

ATTRACTIVE: Dark, brown eyes, 5'4", 110 lbs, 28, single, looking for a serious relationship. Reply to Box No. 2018.

ATTRACTIVE: Dark, brown eyes, 5'4", 110 lbs, 28, single, looking for a serious relationship. Reply to Box No. 2019.

LADIES

ATTRACTIVE: Dark, brown eyes, 5'4", 110 lbs, 28, single, looking for a serious relationship. Reply to Box No. 2020.

ATTRACTIVE: Dark, brown eyes, 5'4", 110 lbs, 28, single, looking for a serious relationship. Reply to Box No. 2021.

ATTRACTIVE: Dark, brown eyes, 5'4", 110 lbs, 28, single, looking for a serious relationship. Reply to Box No. 2022.

Who's Who

Singles Library Ltd.

For Executives

Who's Who Library stands alone in the field of romance. Our commitment allows you to choose your very own partner from the extensive Library of profiles.

A unique service with a difference. For unstuck Executives & Professionals. Confidential, no obligation.

Love will find a way...

39 CURZON STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1Y 7RF

Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Sat 11am-4pm

Telephone: 071 896 0090

Wodehouse on the golf course

مَكْرًا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Tripping the light fantastic with Scarlett

Scarlett O'Hara rests her tiny, fragile head against a big white pillow, and smiles radiantly. She has just suffered a dreadful ordeal — a capsized boat, a near drowning, and then heroic rescue by the husband she is determined to win back — yes, Rhett. What did you think it was all over? He bawled for her across the green choppy waves. "Scarlett!" while she bobbed up and down yelling "Rhett!" and then he reached her, caught her in his arms and stood up in three feet of water. Carrying her unconscious to a convenient hut, he laid her on a pallet, stroked her to the buff, and when she woke up and smiled, promptly did the conjugal business with the three dots.

Now Scarlett wakes up in her mother-in-law's house, and the thin gruel of Scarlett (Sky One) seems fairly chewy for once. Did Scarlett really do sex in a hut with Rhett? Or was it an illusion, an

out-of-body experience, due to a clout on the head from a wayward boom? Either way, the older woman's Charleston delicacy demands euphemism. "It's just like the poets say," says Scarlett, in her sweetest Southern accent. "Sometimes, out of the darkest danger and fear comes the most dazzling and beautiful light."

Scarlett, as everyone knows, is the sequel to *Gone With the Wind*. And as everyone suspected, it's a turkey with legs. An incredible eight hours long, it stars the midsize Joanne Whalley-Kilmer as Scarlett, the strapping, weasel-faced Timothy Dalton as Rhett, and a lot of other pale shadows and impostors in subsidiary roles. Stripped of the epic Civil War background — of death, adversity, danger, slavery, the saintliness of Melanie, and the burning of Atlanta — the story merely concerns two passably attractive people who love each

other really, but annoyingly can't admit it simultaneously. The best scene in last night's first instalment concerned Rhett's manly ripping of Scarlett's frocks — it was almost thrilling. Scarlett dressed like an accident in a furberlow factory, and continued to do so, despite heavier hints than Rhett's. I can't imagine what will happen next, and frankly I don't give a damn. But for anyone picking up the story tonight, the hut incident means that Scarlett, abandoned again by Rhett, now throws up in the mornings. What ever can this mean? (Dot, dot, dot.)

Real out-of-body experiences were the subject of Network First (ITV), a film by Anthony Thomas called, imaginatively, *Between Life and Death*. Thomas specialises in twilight zones between science and mysticism, generally in an American context — psychology and scien-

tifically explicable in terms of neurology, but it's not good telling this to people who've floated above their lifeless bodies and been cuddled by God. In fact, it's not good telling this to most people, who naturally prefer the spiritual explanation to the dying voice. Anyway, if you thought *Top Gun* was a numbskull movie, here's why. *Between Life and Death* revealed that as part of their training, would-be naval pilots have their brains drained deliberately under lab conditions, thus accidentally simulating the near-death experience. Inside a large domed building, a pilot is strapped inside a futuristic capsule on the end of a massive arm. The arm turns, and the capsule whizzes around. The temptation to shout "Wheel" is soon quashed when the acceleration steps up, and the capsule whizzes faster, until the centrifugal force on the end of this big stick is nine times that of gra-

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

ism, scientific quests for immortality — and in this latest film he examined the dazzling and beautiful light mentioned by Scarlett, which normally means not that you are enjoying unexpected conjugal felicity, but that you are dying, and that your brain is switching the lights off when all the other organs have gone. Near-death experiences (sci-



Judy Lewis, Clark Gable's daughter (ITV, 9.00pm)

Hollywood Kids (ITV, 9.00pm) The team that gave us *Hollywood Women* turns its attention to their offspring. The format is the same, a montage of slickly-edited soundbites which tend to be high on gloss and short on substance. A better film might have resulted from having fewer contributors and letting each have a longer say. The story of Judy Lewis, born to Loretta Young and unaware for years that her father was Clark Gable, is a programme in itself. Viewers can nonetheless amuse themselves counting the celebrity marriages (Mickey Rooney, Lana Turner and Zsa Zsa Gabor head the list with eight apiece) and meeting the permanently aspiring brothers and sisters of the much more famous Michelle Pfeiffer, John Travolta and Eddie Murphy.

Great Journeys (BBC2, 9.25pm) Ernie Dingo, the Aboriginal actor from *Crocodile Dundee* II, travels across his favourite parts of Australia. This is the Kimberley, an isolated area in the far northwest. The landscape, unspoiled and often ruggedly beautiful, would be worth a film on its own. But there is no shortage of human interest either. Films about Aboriginals and their land inevitably become tales of oppression by the white man, and Dingo does not break this mould. Happily, however, this is no purely political broadcast. His celebration of Janadramma, an Aboriginal form of the 1890s who masterminded a breakout from a white prison, is conducted without rancour. His basic plea is for the Aboriginals to be allowed to keep their culture.

Dispatches (Channel 4, 9.00pm) The current affairs series visits Lancashire and examines allegations that the country's social workers have been exceeding their brief. In one case a mother was told to give up her degree course, abandon her driving lessons and stop applying for jobs. The instruction came after her husband was accused of abusing her children by a previous marriage. In another case a woman deemed to be a threat to her children was forced to live apart from them, and also told how many hours a day she could spend with her husband. The programme, which is a valuable, chairman of the Lancashire social services committee, says social workers face difficult decisions, but in the vast majority of cases they get it right.

Wildlife Showcase: The Deadly Season (BBC2, 8.00pm) The dry season has been drier than usual in Kruger National Park in South Africa and thirsty animals are converging from miles around on one small waterhole. The cameras are poised for an engrossing battle of attrition as the animals vie for the water. The drought that they have taken to eating elephant dung. Hunger makes them careless. Lions pounce on a stray calf. The rest of the hippo herd come to the rescue and the attackers are repelled. A buffalo, despite its formidable bulk and lethal horns, is not so lucky, though it takes several lions to down the beast and turn it into trophies. After that the water monitor's pursuit of barbel fish lying trapped between the bodies of two hippos is an anticlimax. Peter Waymark

SKY ONE 6.00am DJ Kai (133555) 6.45 Cartoons (581215) 9.30am Cartoons (58059) 10.00am Cartoons (58059) 10.30am Cartoons (58059) 11.00am Cartoons (58059) 11.30am Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059) 2.00pm Cartoons (58059) 2.30pm Cartoons (58059) 3.00pm Cartoons (58059) 3.30pm Cartoons (58059) 4.00pm Cartoons (58059) 4.30pm Cartoons (58059) 5.00pm Cartoons (58059) 5.30pm Cartoons (58059) 6.00pm Cartoons (58059) 6.30pm Cartoons (58059) 7.00pm Cartoons (58059) 7.30pm Cartoons (58059) 8.00pm Cartoons (58059) 8.30pm Cartoons (58059) 9.00pm Cartoons (58059) 9.30pm Cartoons (58059) 10.00pm Cartoons (58059) 10.30pm Cartoons (58059) 11.00pm Cartoons (58059) 11.30pm Cartoons (58059) 12.00pm Cartoons (58059) 12.30pm Cartoons (58059) 1.00pm Cartoons (58059) 1.30pm Cartoons (58059)

White shines in all-rounder's role in win over Australia A England finally stop the rot

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

FACED with derision and indifference from without and sinking spirits within, England's cricketers desperately needed a win for their public credibility and private self-esteem. When it came yesterday, amid crowd disorder, controversy and a batting collapse, the exultant faces told all that was necessary of the relief.

Defeating the Australia A team by 31 runs in a World Series Cup fixture here does not qualify England for remission on sentences already passed. Charged with ineptitude and inconsistency, they remain guilty until proving themselves innocent in higher courts than this. But winning here was a start for to lose would assuredly have brought the momentum of this tour to a dead stop with four of the five Tests still to play.

There are serious caveats to any temptation to overplay the victory. England ended the night with a lengthy injury list headed, most worryingly, by Michael Atherton, their captain. Philip Tufnell, who had bowled splendidly and with passion, ended up losing 30 per cent of his match fee (about £350) after John Reid, the referee, took exception to him throwing down the ball after a frustrating over.



Tufnell: fined by referee

The striking components of the victory were a spirited all-round display by Craig White, on the ground he regards as a second home, and a rapid surrender by the A team's batting that saw them lose their last seven wickets for 19 runs in eight overs. From apparently winning at a canter, they came ingloriously to grief, subduing a 40,000 crowd preparing to gloat over England's misfortunes.

Sadly, the pervasive yob element, scourge of the night cricket revolution, was in evidence again and the umpires discussed taking the players off the ground after England fielders complained that the abuse being hurled at them was not confined to the verbal. Golf balls, beer cans and bottles were thrown onto the playing area.

Alec Stewart, captaining England in Atherton's absence, said: "It is disappointing that it was ruined by a few mindless people. They are good supporters here, they get involved and excited, but you have to think of the players' safety. When a golf ball landed at our wicketkeeper's feet, it had gone too far."

Among the other things Stewart had not expected to come his way were the job of

captain, which he inherited ten minutes prior to the toss, and the diving body of Justin Langer, which connected with the back of his knees during the crucial dismissal of the evening.

Langer, ruled out by the third umpire after an adhesive half-century, might have believed Stewart obstructed him, but when the decision was given by the traffic lights on the scoreboard, this fluctuating game was effectively over.

Stewart's defence in the Langer incident was that his back had been turned to the onrushing batsman. Later, however, it was Atherton's back that was causing the England management more concern. His chronic condition, already acknowledged as career-shortening, had worsened sharply during fielding practice. Notwithstanding Stewart's rousing efforts as deputy, Atherton's swift recovery is essential.

England chose from only 12 fit men yesterday, and by the end of the game Stewart was nursing a bruised right knee, Phil DeFreitas a calf muscle and Graham Thorpe a strained groin. White, the man of the match, was on the treatment table, having ice applied to a side strain, so the prospects of raising a quorum for the floodlit game against Zimbabwe tomorrow were not great.

White, a resolute character, will not lightly give up his place after an evening on which he did what all genuine all-rounders must occasionally do and won his team a match. That the stage was the Melbourne ground where he was brought by his father as a boy, from the family home in Bendigo, was a bonus.

White's first duty was to rescue the England innings from mediocrity. On a two-paced pitch, they had lost Stewart and Gooch cheaply. Hick and Thorpe when evidently well set and Gattling stumped, playing the walking defensive shot of a disorientated man. At 100 for five, with 20 overs remaining, England could easily have been humbled for 140, but White, dropped on 16, batted with defiant character until Tufnell ran him out from the last ball of an innings that had raised a negotiable 158.

Angus Fraser gave the bowling a more purposeful appearance, though he dismissed the two openers with a half-volley and long hop respectively. From the other end, DeFreitas was bowling his best spell for a month and the A team were in trouble until Martyn and Langer began batting as if victory was assured.

Tufnell, crucially, teased out Martyn, but Ricky Ponting played twenty for 31 and the game began to turn only when he played on against White. From then on, it was all England, and although they could have won more easily if Steven Rhodes had not twice dropped Langer, they could also quite conceivably have been beaten.

"I think the boys will enjoy a drink tonight," Stewart said. The toast would have been to relieve rather than triumph.

West Indies gamble, page 39
Botham on shortlist, page 39



White, the man of the match, shows his delight after capturing the important wicket of Ponting, bowled for 31

SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

England won toss		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4 (Stewart 23, 2-23 (Pitt 11), 3-55 (Thorpe 11), 4-95 (Gelling 21), 5-107 (White 31, 6-137 (White 13), 7-170 (White 35), 8-167 (White 42), 9-185 (Tufnell 4))	
ENGLAND		BOWLING: Hughes 10-3-22-2 (5-2-8-1, 2-1-3-0, 3-0-1-1); Reffel 10-4-45-1 (2-3-0-1, 2-0-4-0, 3-0-2-0); Moody 10-0-33-1 (0-0-18-1, 2-0-7-0, 3-0-7-0); Angel 8-1-45-0 (2-1-31-0, 2-0-14-0); Robertson 10-0-37-1 (one spell); Martyn 1-0-6-0 (one spell).	
AUS		AUS	
G A Gooch c Emery b Hughes 6		O S Lehmann c Rhodes b Fraser 3	
A J Stewart c Emery b Reffel 5		M L Hayden c Rhodes b Fraser 12	
G A Hick c Emery b Moody 32		D R Martyn c Gooch b Tufnell 40	
G P Thorpe run out (Moody/Robertson) 28		J L Langer run out (Fraser) 55	
M W Gattling c Emery b Robertson 23		R T Ponting b White 31	
C White run out (Lahmann/Emery) 43		T M Moody b White 2	
P A J DeFreitas c Hayden b Hughes 11		P A Emery c Rhodes b DeFreitas 2	
S O Udal run out (Robertson/Hughes) 9		Total (8 wickets, 28 overs, 228 min) 138	
P C B Tufnell not out 0		A R C Fraser did not bat	
Edwin (20 w, 2) 9			
Total (8 wickets, 28 overs, 228 min) 138			
A R C Fraser did not bat			

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 344

- | | |
|---|---|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 7 Badly off (4) | 1 Unvarying pitch (of voice) (8) |
| 8 Indian chief (Longfellow) (9) | 2 Icy: unresponsive (6) |
| 9 Stare with popping eyes (6) | 3 Device for tearing into fragments (8) |
| 10 Young cow (6) | 4 Cattle-feed mixed with water (4) |
| 11 Strong link (6) | 5 Small overnight case (6) |
| 12 Malapropism constable (Much Ado) (8) | 6 Item of footwear (4) |
| 15 University teacher (8) | 13 Tender of flowers, lawn etc. (8) |
| 17 As it happens (4) | 14 Extremely hungry (8) |
| 18 Outfit of multiple store (6) | 16 Slight stinging, throbbing sensation (6) |
| 21 Grow bigger (6) | 17 Resembling a wolf (6) |
| 22 Praise (given as a round) (8) | 19 Inferior: slightly unwell (4) |
| 23 Common sense (4) | 20 Transport (goods): tug (4) |

SOLUTION TO NO 343

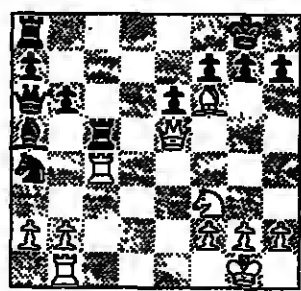
ACROSS: 1 Pompos 5 Tippet 8 Seep 9 Tincture 10 Hammer 12 Odds 15 Sick as a parrot 16 Bess 17 Sutor 19 Basilica 21 Weal 22 Sketch 23 Entify
DOWN: 2 Operative 3 Pip 4 Motorist 5 Tone 6 Potpourri 7 Ear 11 Makeshift 13 Deodorant 14 Apostate 18 Rich 20 Auk 21 Wit

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Alekhine - Sterk, Budapest 1921. Can you see how Alekhine would have cut through the complications to score a win on material?

Solution, page 39
Raymond Keene, page 5



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FASCINATOR
a. An imaginative child
b. A head shawl
c. A shooting star

GELADA
a. An Ethiopian baboon
b. An African slave
c. A furious dance

RED-TOP
a. A facial spot
b. A bird
c. A pasture grass

SACKIE
a. A strong alcohol
b. An African slave
c. A small parrot

Answers on page 39

Modahl rounds first bend in running battle to clear name

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THERE were enough television crews and photographers gathered outside the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel in London early yesterday to prompt at least one passer-by to ask whether they were there for the £18 million national lottery winner. The way Diane Modahl and her husband, Vicente, went from cab to foyer, holding hands and smiling, anyone not recognising them could have been forgiven for thinking that the passer-by might have been on the scent.

The Modahls, though, are a long way yet from a champagne celebration. If Diane, Great Britain's No 1 woman 800 metres runner, is found today to have convinced a British Athletic Federation (BAF) disciplinary hearing of her innocence with regard to a positive drugs test, she will have the more formidable challenge of persuading the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) that she did not administer steroids. Without the world governing body's approval, she will be suspended from international competition for four years.

The hearing began yesterday, with Modahl's legal advisers presenting fresh evidence. They expressed to the hearing their concern at media coverage which did not reflect the case they were presenting. Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman, who was reporting from the hearing to waiting journalists, referred to "the written mayhem of the last ten days".

He added: "Her lawyers are saying there is much more evidence that has not appeared in the media. We did express our own concern about the previous ten days' media coverage, that we felt it could have prejudiced the hearing."

Although some 20 people were packed into the small hearing room - the panel of four men and one woman, legal representatives on both sides and expert witnesses - they did not include anyone from the laboratory in Lisbon which conducted Modahl's urine test. There has been speculation over the custody and storage of the sample but neither Professor Jorge Barbosa, who conducted the test, nor Professor Lesseps

Reys, the laboratory's science director, was present.

"They had to get permission from the Portuguese Government to attend and that has not been forthcoming," Ward said. "They also told us they had been affronted by the media coverage which cast aspersions on their laboratory. The federation feels there has been some xenophobia that, because it is a foreign laboratory, it might be slightly suspect, whereas the Lisbon laboratory is an IOC International Olympic Committee accredited laboratory."

Vicente Modahl said last Thursday that he had made repeated requests for the chain of custody documents but these had not arrived. "I believe that the hearing would not have gone ahead with such important documentation," Ward said.

Ward added that Peter Radford, the BAF executive chairman, had confirmed that, if Modahl was cleared by the BAF hearing, she would be free to run in Britain but not outside. "As far as we are concerned she is clear to run anywhere but other bodies may take appropriate action," Ward said.

Modahl registered a positive test based on an testosterone/epitestosterone reading of 42:1. Normal is 1:1. Among those appearing before the panel were Raymond Brooks, Professor of endocrinology at the University of London, and Vivian James, the university's Professor of chemical pathology. "Both are recognised as world authorities on steroid analysis and detection," Ward said.

Ward added that it was likely the panel would discuss this morning the evidence presented yesterday and that a statement with the verdict would be read later today. The BAF would not, he added, comment "because of what could occur at an appeal process".

If the hearing finds in her favour, it will set alarm bells ringing at the IAAF, which defends its testing system adamantly. Britain's uneasy relationship with the IAAF was hinted at by Ward. "GB is part of the IAAF organisation," he said. "I hesitate to use the word family."

QUALITY U.K. MADE WAX JACKET ONLY £24.99 +p&p

Extra Durable Lined Hood with each jacket

CORDED COLLAR
SEAMLESS SHOULDER FOR ADDED WATER RESIST
2 WAY FRONT ZIP
STUDDED STORM FLAP
HAND WARMER POCKETS
DEEP FRONT POCKETS
INTERNAL POCKETS
KNITTED CUFF
& STORM CUFF



We sincerely believe we have found one of the best quality for money jackets made in the U.K., why pay more when you can take advantage of our low introductory price! Great traditional classic wear for the family with value in mind.

Sizes: S (36/38), M (40), L (42), XL (44), XXL (46) unless

Material: Cotton waxed outer Colours: Green, Navy

Item Ref: 11510 Wax Jacket

PRIVILEGE OFFER Buy a Jacket from This Advert Only

and order a pair of real Hunter "Wellies at the same time for

a combined price of £54.99 Post Free. Remember the two items

must be ordered together as a County Set for £54.99 Post Free.

Please note by the spirit of the offer, refunds can only be made against the

3 items bought as a set, an ordered and not in part.

Sizes: S - 12 full sizes Colours: Green. Item Ref: 11510 Hunter

PHONE NOW ON 0768 899111

OR FAX 0768 899222 TO PLACE CREDIT CARD ORDER

SEND TO DEPT 771412 TOWN & COUNTRY MANNER LTD.

PENRITH ESTATE, PENRITH, CUMBRIA CA11 9EQ

We hope to dispatch by return, otherwise you should hear from us within 30 days.

If not please contact us. REFUND OR REPLACEMENT IF NOT DELIVERED.

Our prices include VAT. All prices are in pounds sterling.

Post Code: _____

Signature: _____

to Town & Country Manner Ltd

Rep. Dept: _____

If you are not interested in receiving information on approved services

and products from third parties please tick

CROSSWORD BOOKS (Reduced postage until Dec 31): The Times Concise Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £3.49 each), Books 3, 4, 5 & 6 £3.49 each, Book 7 £4.00 each, The Times Jumbo Crosswords: (Books 1 & 2 £3.49 each, Book 3 £4.49), The Times Crosswords: (Books 1 to 13 £3.49 each, Book 14 to 19 £4.00 each, The Sunday Times Crosswords: (Book 1 £4.49), Books 10, 11, 12 & NEW Book 13 £4.00 each, The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords: 1, 2, 3 £4.00 each. Except the items in brackets, software available for all titles for IBM PCs and Acorn computers - Prices £14.99 each - also The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1 to 6, The Sunday Times Vols 1 to 6 and The Times Jumbo Edition. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques to **Adams Ltd**, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.